

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL NEWSLETTER



Number 31

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National Trails Day – June 3, 2006

One exciting new addition to our area is the development of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. Recently a brochure and travel guide has been published for the Lower Chippewa and Upper Mississippi Region. Both Red Cedar and Chippewa River Trails give excellent access to some of the best birding and wildlife watching in the state which includes The Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area (LCRSNA). The Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail initiative is a reminder for us of the excellent quality of life we have in our state and it is an especially sustainable tourism development. This will become increasingly apparent as the baby boomer generation retires and looks for “nonextreme” outdoor adventure to fill their leisure time. As a kick off for the for this initiative we are planning an Open House at the Depot Visitor Center on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3rd. Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and trail staff are working on plans for several special programs that are oriented toward the birding theme. Live birds of prey, bird mentoring and identification, a children’s program, and special displays are part of the day’s festivities. Trail fees are waived for the day and there will be free refreshments. It will be a good day to plan for a picnic for the family. Stay tuned for more details. We hope to see you there!

P.S. - Local organizations are invited to set up booths related to outdoor recreation and conservation for this special event. Contact Jim Janowak at 715-232-1242 for details.

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

WHAT'S NEW

We are looking forward to another year with some very exciting developments on the horizon regarding possible trails in our area. You may have noticed that the city has cleaned up Stokke Trail and cut out a lot of the weedy and invasive shrubs and trees species along that section of trail. It changed the look quite a bit but the area will soon be replanted with species that are native to our area and will provide habitat for the local fauna. School students will be helping to plant the new stock as an Earth Day project on April 21. Although it looks a little rough right now it is an important environmental improvement and we applaud the city for its initiative.

The DNR has recently been contacted by community leaders from Pierce and St. Croix counties. There has been some interest generated to build a trail out toward Spring Valley. Although still in the idea stage they would like to add to the county trail system and eventually tie in with Red Cedar Trail near Downsville.

And some local folks are working with the highway department to get a trail or bike route along County Y and Highway 25 and provide a safe corridor for trail users from Red Cedar Trail to bike over to Caddie Woodlawn Historical Park. We do have a large number of visitors that like to explore our area for cultural or scenic attractions. A safe way to access Caddie Woodlawn by bike would be a great asset.

WINTER RECREATION THANK YOU

We had another successful Candlelight “Event” this year. Although conditions did not allow for a ski we did have 175 people show for the hike on Stokke Trail. Swiss Miss provided hot chocolate again. The Friends and other volunteers took care of setting up the candles and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks to everyone for your help. All the visitors really appreciated the chance to get out and those of us that worked at the highway crossing heard many expressions of gratitude throughout the evening.

I also wanted to thank Bruce Jordan and Ron Pffnner for their excellent job grooming and tracking Red Cedar Trail this winter again. They did a great job with very little snow. I know there are still a couple of volunteers out there that did not get a chance to groom yet but I am sure you will get your turn once we get a winter with “normal” snow. Thanks for your interest.

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.

PROJECT VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR – 2006

Based on the success of the number of projects completed last year that were facilitated because of our Volunteer Coordinator, it was decided to hire someone again this year. For 2006, Doug Voy has been hired as the Project Volunteer Coordinator. He will begin working with Jim Janowak on the National Trail Day and start working with the Chamber June 22nd. He has been a member and volunteer with the Friends group. He is also a master gardener and very interested in outdoor work and landscaping. Doug has degrees in Industrial Technology and Economics from Iowa State University. He has also volunteered with the Wilson Place Museum, Menomonie Farmers Market and Beaver Creek Reserve. There are a number of projects this year that Doug will be involved in and will need volunteer help. Some of them involve getting rid of invasive species along the trail, cleaning up the quarry interpretive site, planting, general clean-up and working at the depot. People with expertise in invasive species are particularly needed to help in that effort. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these efforts and more, please contact Jim Janowak.

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

Everyone is Welcome

Annual Meeting --- June 6, 2006

Place: Holiday Manor Inn & Conference Center (Formerly Best Western),
Menomonie

Time: Social - 6:30 P.M., Complementary hors d'oeuvres
Meeting & Program: 7 P.M.

Program: Harriet Brown, editor of Wisconsin Trails magazine, will talk about her favorite places in Wisconsin. She will also bring some magazines and answer any questions people may have.

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

"WHEN I LOOK AT A CACTUS SHADOW, I CAN TELL WHAT TIME IT IS, WHAT THE TEMPERATURE IS, AND WHAT THE WEATHER WILL BE TOMORROW WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, YOU HAVE TO PRETEND YOU KNOW EVERYTHING.."

--- SNOOPY (FROM PEANUTS)

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CORNER**BARB GORMAN**

Despite the lack of cooperation from Mother Nature, ski conditions on the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills were often excellent this past winter. Thanks to winter's return in March, skiers are continuing to enjoy great ski conditions on the two trails. Through a cooperative effort by skiers and the DNR, all the trails at Hoffman Hills were open and groomed. Many, many positive comments were made about how enjoyable this was. The grooming at both trails was once again outstanding. Skiers thank the volunteer efforts of Bruce Jordan and Ron Pfiffner, as well as the Hoffman Hills groomers of Jim Janowak and Bob Goers. Budget issues continue to create challenges in the operation of Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail. Ongoing planning to address these challenges is occurring. The next meeting for the Hoffman Hills ski committee is April 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Leisure Center. The meeting is open to all interested persons.

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).

PEDALING THE TRAILS

DALE SEPPA

Get those bikes down from the hangers in your garage -- the biking season is here. To make your biking experience most enjoyable, make sure that your bike is in good working order, the tires properly inflated and that your brakes are properly adjusted, etc.

In Wisconsin, we are fortunate to have many bike trails as illustrated on the drawing below (from the DNR WEB site). The Department of Natural Resources provides information on all the state trails via their WEB site (<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/findatrail.html>).

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism offers the [Wisconsin Biking Guide](#), a detailed ride guide to 44 Wisconsin bike touring trails, on-road routes, and mountain bike trail systems. The guide is free from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism. Call (608)266-2161, or toll free (800)432-TRIP, or within Wisconsin (800)372-2737. This guide was last printed in 2004. It is being updated and the 2006 version will be available after May 1.

WisDOT also has downloadable bike maps for each of [Wisconsin's 72 counties](#). This approach enables cyclists of all abilities to select their own routes to meet their individual transportation and recreational needs. WEB site is (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/bike-foot/bikemaps.htm>)



Drawing from the DNR WEB Site

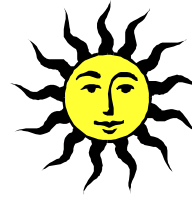
Merchandise Available in the Depot

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

This is a book of photographs (Jerry Bowker) along the Trail accompanied by poems and prose (Robert Schuler).

- Critters of Wisconsin\$5.95
- This is a new pocket guide of mammals, birds, wildlife terms, etc. produced in cooperation with Wildlife Forever.

Sales benefit the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail



OLD SOL

Sky is brightening, Old Sol is heightening.
 Bright colors are changing, they keep rearranging.
 Folks are awaking, day's plans in the making.
 Chores are beginning, Old Sol is grinning.
 Smiling faces, fond embraces.
 Clothes a'flapping, dogs are yapping.
 Bees a'humming, grouse's drumming.
 Children running, foxes sunning.
 Birds all a'flutter, open a shutter.
 Lakes all a'shimmering, hopes are glimmering.

-- All to soon --

Daylight fading, Old Sol is shading.
 Time for resting, a time for nesting.
 Sky is darkening, The West is hearkening.
 Those purple hues, they will diffuse.
 That golden sphere, has gone from here.
 We say goodbye to a day gone by!

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

SOMETIMES I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT, AND I ASK, "WHEN WILL IT ALL END?"
 THEN A VOICE COMES TO ME THAT SAYS, RIGHT AFTER THE CREDITS!"
 --- CHARLIE BROWN (FROM PEANUTS)

GREAT WISCONSIN BIRDING & NATURE TRAIL

On June 3rd, National Trails Day, festivities and events will kick off the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills featured designation in the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail, Mississippi/Chippewa Rivers Region.

This project divides Wisconsin into five wildlife viewing regions that highlight environmental tourism and the outstanding regional birding opportunities our state provides. To quote the trail guide, “extensive wetlands,wild places, a broad range of natural habitat and a commitment to environmental stewardship have made Wisconsin an outstanding regional birding opportunity.” Ultimately, driving trails that link important wildlife sites within each of five state regions will be developed. The Mississippi/Chippewa Rivers Region Guide, second in the series, features the following sites in Dunn County: Red Cedar State Trail, Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area, Dunnville State Wildlife Area (adjacent to RCST), Caryville Savanna, and the Lake Menomin/Wolske’s Bay, Wakanda Park area.

The varied habitat – wooded hills, valleys, bluffs, woodlands, farm fields, river floodplain forest and prairies – along the RCT as it flows to its junction with the Chippewa River offers fine birding opportunities as well as views of mink, fox, muskrat, beaver and perhaps the elusive river otter. Within the 700+ acres of wooded hills, old farm fields, restored prairies and wetlands of Hoffman Hills, birding opportunities can be breathtaking. Forest birds who chose to inhabit large tracts of woodland find a home here. Summer residents and migratory birds of the wetlands, and birds of the prairies and grasslands find a refuge from our increasingly fragmented and developed environment.

We hope that you can join us on National Trails Day to honor our inclusion and participation in the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. Throughout summer and fall of this year, the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills will host several activities and events to acquaint visitors with the wealth of birds and other wildlife with which we are privileged to share this beautiful area. Check local news media and trailside postings for dates and times.

TREASURER’S REPORT

TOM KILGORE

The Spring 2006 membership drive is underway with the postcards recently sent to past members not yet on the "bikewagon" for this year!! The cards are coming back in a flurry. ConAgra Foods - Swiss Miss is a “Large Corporation” member and Cedar Corporation is a "Small Business" member. Linda and Steve Young are "Supporting" members; Jill and Lee Schwebs and Marion and Warren Lang are "Contributing" members. We have 14 "Family" memberships and 9 "Individual" memberships. The "Lifetime" grouping has been active with three new memberships: Bobbie and O.K. Hedlund, Paulette and Robert Norby and Tiki Einum and her pooch Molly! A big thanks to all participants.

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