

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL NEWSLETTER



Number 33

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Candlelight Ski – January 26, 2007

The annual popular winter event, the Candlelight Ski, will be held on January 26, 2007 from 6 – 9 P.M. The Red Cedar Trail and the Stokke Trail will be lit with luminaries. Hopefully, this year there will be adequate snow for cross-country skiing on The Red Cedar State Trail. It will be open from the Depot to the ice wall, about 1.5 miles. In any event, 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 State 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 MANAGER'S REPORT JIM JANOWAK, DNR

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and that we now have some snow. As I write this one week before Christmas and I am again wondering where our Wisconsin winter is hanging out. Global warming, El Nino (sorry Barb I know you don't like to hear that), what's up? Well, when it does get here we'll be ready to hit the trails.

I would like to thank everybody that helped out this year on the various projects along Red Cedar Trail and at Hoffman Hills. We are able to maintain our recreational resources quite well despite continuing "streamlining" of government services and that's because of all the excellent alliances we have within the community especially the Friends of Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills. Trail work, ski trail grooming and funding, prairie maintenance, invasive species control, tree planting, Depot staffing, Trail ambassadors, interpretive displays, outdoor education programs, and the new steps from Riverside Park are just some of the Friends projects worked on this year. It was another good year thanks to all you have done.

With the new year, of course, will be new projects and some will be a follow up on work done last year. Control of invasive species will be a very long range project and along with removal of the invasives will be a lot of planting of native species. The Depot interior can use a new look or at least a new paint job. The Quarry site at mile 10 will need to be updated with new wayside signs and some other clean up. The Chamber will be renewing their Tourism committee and has requested that the Friends group be represented. Will there be another celebration of Earth Day or National Trails Day in 2007? Also there is the planning for the Annual Meeting in June. Anybody have a suggestion in mind for the speaker? These are just a few of the possibilities for 2007. If anyone has other suggestions please get in touch with one of the Board members. If you can lead, organize or contribute in any other way that would be helpful. And if anyone has some ideas on how to generate more interest for the next generation that would be most helpful.

Again thank you for your contributions and may we all enjoy a healthy and prosperous New Year. Think snow!

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.

**HOW CAN BIRDS FLY WHEN IT'S SO COLD?
I THINK MY EARS WOULD FREEZE ...
.....SNOOPY (FROM PEANUTS)**

PROJECTS – COMPLETED IN 2006

Steps from Riverside Park to the Trail

This past Fall, a project was completed which added steps from Riverside Park to the Red Cedar State Trail near the Gilbert Creek Bridge. This is an area where many access the trail and, consequently, the access at this spot created erosion problems that regularly had to be repaired. This project was completed as a cooperative effort of the City of Menomonie and the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail coordinated by Jim Janowak (DNR). The Friends group paid for the materials and the City did the design and provided the labor. If you have seen the completed project, I'm sure that you will agree that it is a very good addition that should last for years. Thank you to Bruce Heath, Richard Henning and the crew from the City of Menomonie Maintenance Department, Mayor Kropp and all who participated in this project for a job well done.



Activities/Projects supported by Friends volunteers this past year included:

- Annual Candlelight Ski
- Bike Expo in Minneapolis
- National Trails Day
- Annual Meeting with guest speaker, Harriet Brown of Wisconsin Trails Magazine
- Staining the Gazebo at the Depot
- Filling holes on the trails at the Hoffman Hills pond site
- Painting the fence around the Quarry site derrick and trimming some brush
- Garlic Mustard pulling near the depot
- The Prairie site at the Depot was cleaned up
- Buckthorn/Honeysuckle was removed near the Depot area
- Replaced worn planks on the ramp at the back of the Depot
- Trail Ambassadors answered visitors questions
- Depot Nature Center was continually updated
- Birding Ventures were lead by birding experts
- Volunteer Picnic was a year-end thank you to all the volunteers

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES – PLANNED FOR 2007

Plans are being made for Activities and Projects for 2007. Some of these activities/projects are annual events which the friends group has supported over the years. There are always new projects that are chosen to be undertaken each year. In the past two years, a volunteer coordinator has been hired to coordinate the interested volunteers to work on these projects. It is planned to hire a volunteer coordinator again in 2007. We have a very dedicated group of volunteers and we could use more. There are needs for volunteers in a number of areas. There are volunteer opportunities that involve somewhat physically demanding tasks and others that aren't that physically demanding. The Friends group and other volunteers provided over 200 working hours to help maintain and improve the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area in this past summer. If you are interested, please contact any board member.

Some of the anticipated projects/activities for 2007 include:

Invasive Species - This past year we got started on removing invasive species primarily near the trailhead. We got started too late on removing garlic mustard as much of it had already gone to seed. This next year, it is planned to get an earlier start on garlic mustard. Also, we spent quite a bit of effort in removing buckthorn, honeysuckle and some prickly ash. Unfortunately that turned out to be a larger project than originally envisioned. Now we will need to replant those areas with some native species. Plans are to continue with this effort.

Trail Ambassadors - The duty of a Trail Ambassador is to make the visitor's experience as enjoyable as possible by answering questions about the areas, assisting users and being alert to their needs, comments, complaints, etc. Trail Ambassadors are not responsible for enforcing DNR regulations. As there is less budget available for trail attendants, the ambassadors are increasingly important for visitor services.

Ski Groomers - Providing winter brings snow this year additional groomers will be needed to help with the fine work done by Bruce Jordan and Ron Pfiffner the last couple of years.

Trail and Prairie Maintenance - Hoffman Hills will need some additional attention next year. Brush cutting, weed pulling and maybe even some mowing help would be appreciated.

Depot Visitor Center - There's always a shift or two available during the summer months for greeting visitors, selling passes and doing minor maintenance.

Annual Activities - Volunteers are always needed to help with the regular annual activities such as the Candlelight Ski, National Trails Day, etc.

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

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

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

BARB GORMAN

A very big and sincere THANK-YOU to the businesses (listed below) who have recently become members of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills. We appreciate your support and welcome you to the Friends' group. The Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills are resources unique to Menomonie and Dunn County. They contribute to a healthy quality of life. Each year the Friend's group works on projects to continue to enhance the trails, benefiting the users of the trails and the community. Some of the projects completed in 2006 are highlighted in this issue's newsletter. The two trails not only provide a successful tourism base, but are actively used by people throughout the community and State for nature and physical fitness activities. The parking lots at the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills are often full and many people are on the trails enjoying their activity. On Sunday, December 10, 2006, I was out walking on the Red Cedar State Trail. I caught up to another walker, who mentioned that she had about an hour before picking up her son from choir practice. Her son is a student at UW-Stout. She lives in Richland Center, Wisconsin and was in Menomonie for her son's choir concert that was to take place later in the day. She was staying in a motel in Menomonie and decided to walk on the trail during the time of her son's practice. During a previous visit, she had walked on the Stokke Trail. We walked together to the "ice wall" that had snow and some ice despite the warm temperatures. She supported businesses during her stay and used the Trail for some exercise. She raved about how fortunate Dunn County is to have the Red Cedar State Trail. Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills memberships help fund projects to make improvements and keep users of the trails "raving". So, THANK YOU for your support:

**The Medicine Shoppe
Cedar Corporation
Dunn Energy Cooperative
Dr. Lisa Joyce, Gentle Dental Care
Heritage Builders
Legacy Chocolate
3M Corporation**

**The Creamery
McCoy Development
ConAgra
Silver Dollar Saloon
Phillip Steans
Vets Plus
Gary Welch Construction**

Business members can be recognized by a decal displayed on their door or window.

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**DON'T MELT MY SNOWMAN!
DON'T! DON'T! DON'T! DON'T!
STOP! PLEASE STOP!! STOP!!
RATS! YOU CAN TALK TO THE MOON, BUT THE SUN WON'T LISTEN...
..... LINUS (FROM PEANUTS)**

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CORNER**BARB GORMAN**

Despite Mother Nature not providing snow on the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills at the time of this newsletter, skiers are ready to enjoy the scenic trails. Ron Pfiffner and Bruce Jordan have been the volunteer groomers the past few years for the Red Cedar State Trail. They do an excellent job and the skiers sincerely appreciate their time, work and energy. Cooperative efforts between the DNR and skiers have also continued to keep all of the trails at Hoffman Hills open and groomed for skiing. Reductions in the DNR budget make this a challenging task. Skiers provide donations to supplement the grooming costs.

It is amazing and wonderful to see the number of people who hike/walk/run on the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. Walkers/ hikers/runners do not need a trail pass to enjoy all that the trails offer. Passes are required to ski on the trails. The availability of the trails change once they are open for cross-country skiing. The Red Cedar State Trail from Menomonie to Downsview is groomed for cross-country skiing only. The Stokke Trail (north of Highway 29) and the Red Cedar State Trail south of Downsview are open for all those not skiing. A separate area for non-skiers is also available at Hoffman Hills. Skiers contribute, support and work hard to keep the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills in good, safe, skiing condition. Walking/hiking/running on the groomed ski trails severely damages the groomed conditions. Several signs are posted on the Red Cedar State Trail and at Hoffman Hills indicating it is for cross-country skiing only. The only thing missing is cooperation from Mother Nature to bring SNOW.

TREASURER'S TIDBITS**TOM KILGORE**

Our program to encourage local businesses to join as "Friend's" and receive a decal for their door or window has met with success. These business members will be listed elsewhere in this newsletter and we encourage you to support them and let them know you also are a "Friend of the Red Cedar State Trail!"

Our major expense in 2006 was \$3,500.00 in our second annual joint venture with the Chamber of Commerce in funding a summer intern benefiting both organizations. Doug Voy filled that position in 2006.

Our second major project was funding the steps from Riverside Park up to the Trail, just south of the Depot. This project, by the City of Menomonie, had us funding the materials at a cost of \$1,551.44. The City crew did a real good job!

Working with the Hoffman Hills group funding winter trail grooming, we have \$1,125.00 currently available to expend on grooming. We donated \$500.00 and individuals in the Hoffman Hills group donated \$625.00.

With the new business memberships, our total membership receipts of \$2,980 in 2006 were double that of 2005. Our trail pass revenue was \$1,218.40 to date with more 2006 monies to be paid us by the Chamber by December 31st.

DUES REMINDER

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail (FRCST) 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 for 2007 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.

CANDLELIGHT SKIS

There are a number of other opportunities for Candlelight skiing in the area. Listed below are some of them.

Lake Wissota State Park
Candlelight Ski & Snowshoe
Saturday, February 3, 2007
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Call 715-382-4574 for details

Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Trail
Snowshoe By Moonlight
Saturday, January 27, 2007 and
Saturday, March 2, 2007
Starts at 6:30 p.m.
Snowshoes available by reservation
Call 715-967-2800 for details

Trail Pass Fees

Daily.....\$4
Annual.....\$15

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

MY SNOWMAN MELTED .. I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN .. -- LINUS
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN VERY CLOSE .. -- LUCY
I WAS WITH HIM WHEN HE MELTED .. -- LINUS
..... (FROM PEANUTS)

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 4)

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL

Join Today!

(or renew your membership)
Dues for 2007 (Jan. – Dec.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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 | |