

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL & HOFFMAN HILLS NEWSLETTER



Number 36

Winter 2008

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Candlelight Ski – January 25, 2008

The annual popular winter event, the Candlelight Ski, will be held on January 25, 2008 from 6 – 9 P.M. The Red Cedar Trail and the Stokke Trail will be lit with luminaries. With the snow that we have had this season, it shapes up to be a great night 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. We ask walkers to be respectful of the groomed Red Cedar State Trail and refrain from walking on it. The Stokke Trail will be cleared to provide the opportunity for those wishing to take a candlelight 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. It is a fun time for the whole family to experience the joys of winter.

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

THANK YOU'S

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. Also, from time to time, many have chosen to make special monetary gifts. Recently, the following gifts have been received:

1. \$50.00 donation in honor of Bob and Penny (Robert & Margaret) Swanson for their birthdays. From Jan Speilman and Theresa and Rick Suydam
2. \$50.00 donation in honor and memory of Lloyd and Myrtis Whydotski. From Jan and Chris Speilman and Theresa and Rick Suydam

The Friends express our thanks 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.

AD HOC BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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BARB GORMAN & DALE SEPPA

As was reported in the last version of the newsletter, Dunn County has formed an Ad Hoc committee to develop guidelines for a bicycle/pedestrian friendly transportation system. The make-up of the committee is a very diverse group of interested citizens and local, county and city officials. The idea is to develop a county-wide system of bike/pedestrian corridors that encourage and promote bicycling/walking both from the recreational aspect as well as a means of commuting. At this time, the objectives of the committee are in the process of being developed. In addition, a focus group composed of both road and trail bikers have been formed to identify various bike routes in Dunn County. It is anticipated the routes will include information on points of interest, roads that are safe and accessible and routes that connect with other towns in Dunn County. In addition, a tourism focus group will be formed. It is expected a member of the bike route focus group will be part of the tourism focus group to further meet the goals of the comprehensive plan. The Ad Hoc committee and associated focus groups will consider a number of items including safety, compatibility with the state trail system, coordination with adjacent counties' systems, compatibility with roadways, routing to county attractions and routes which serve the needs of potential users. This is a first step in the creation of a comprehensive plan for the county. Members of the Friends Group are participants in this committee.

ABOUT "FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL AND HOFFMAN HILLS"

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills is a non-profit corporation organized for the charitable and educational purpose of supporting, assisting, and promoting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with interpretive, scientific, historical, educational, and related visitor services at the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills, Dunn County, Wisconsin. In order to accomplish this purpose, the corporation has the following objectives:

- A) Sponsor and support volunteer interpretive services and environmental education activities, seminars, lectures and other activities that contribute to the interpretive and educational programs of the trail.
- B) Provide for the distribution or sale of appropriate interpretive materials, such as books, pamphlets, and photography at the trail.
- C) Provide financial support to the trail for the furtherance of its interpretive programs, facilities, and resources, raising revenues through such methods as membership fees, donations, sales and special events.
- D) Advocate for policies to preserve and maintain the RCST and HH as natural wildlife areas.

In the support of the objectives listed above, the Friends Group played major roles in the organization of three activities: the annual Candlelight Ski/Hike, National Trails Day and the Annual Meeting bringing a noted speaker.

A number of work projects were undertaken: volunteers gave the inside of the depot a badly needed new coat of paint; a dedicated group of individuals gave graciously of their time each week in order to staff the center; eradicating invasive species; woody invasives were cut from the depot prairie, and mullein was pulled from the one at Hoffman Hills; improvements were made to some exhibits at the Visitor Center; establishment of a website for the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills has begun.

A major addition to the educational component this year were the activities led by Dennis Wiebel (below) which included a number of interpretive walks along the trail and a biweekly column in the Dunn County News, called the Red Cedar Notebook, which featured species found along the trail.



SOLTICE

FOR SURE, THE HOURS OF LIGHT
WILL INCREASE AFTER THE WINTER SOLSTICE
UNTIL THE LONGER DAYS OF SUMMER
ARRIVE - ENERGY AND LIGHT - AND I'LL
BE THERE TAKING LIFE IN
IN ONE DEEP BREATH.

BUT BEFORE THAT MOMENT ARRIVES
I WILL HAVE TO WALK THE WINTER NIGHTS,
THEIR SILENCE HIGHLIGHTING VULNERABILITY
OR AN OASIS OF SOLACE WHERE
LONELINESS HAS SPREAD ITS WINGS,
LONG AND DEEP.

THE LONG WINTER NIGHTS A PRELUDE
I SHOULD NOT MISS. THE CONCERT
TO WHICH NATURE HAS INVITED ME
WOULD BE INCOMPLETE
WITHOUT ITS INTRODUCTION.

----- NYDIA ROJAS

BIKE TUNE-UPS

At this time of the year, many of us are busy
enjoying the winter wonderland we have in this
area. But, now is the time to get your bike tuned

up to avoid the spring rush at the bike
shops. The enjoyment of your biking
experience is enhanced by making sure
that your bike is in good working order.
It may be a good time to check your tires
and replace those worn tires, or get gear
mechanism tuned up to smooth out the
shifting. Also, for safety sake, it is
important to ensure that the brakes are
properly adjusted and in good working
order.

Coming Soon

*The Friends of the Red Cedar State
Trail and Hoffman Hills will soon have
a WEB site. Currently it is in the
development stage with new
information being added daily.
Included will be a Welcome Page,
Mission statement, Newsletters, Red
Cedar Notebook articles, How to
Volunteer, Pictures, History, Board
Members, Contacts, Membership, Bike
Rental information, Meeting Times
with minutes and agenda, Pass
availability and Cost, Coming Events
and Links to other sites. The WEB
address is:*

<http://redcedarhoffman.org/>

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.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP BARB GORMAN & TOM KILGORE

Business Memberships:

January is the annual business membership drive. Mailings will be sent to local businesses encouraging their membership. Businesses are given a decal noting their business is a member of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. The FRCST/HH have been fortunate with the past support of business members. These members include:

Bad Cat Bicycle
Cedar Corp
The Creamery
Gentle Dental Care, Lisa Joyce DDS
Dan Wood, DDS
Dunn County Energy Coop
The Medicine Shoppe
Gary Welch Construction

Legacy Chocolates
McCoy Development
Conagra
3M
Heritage Builders
Phil Steans S.C.
Silver Dollar Saloon
VETS Plus, INC

Please support the Friend's businesses. They make an important contribution to helping improve the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills.

TREASURER'S TIDBITS

TOM KILGORE

Our cash balance decreased in 2007 by \$4,375.68 with major expenses going to funding the Volunteer Coordinator position for \$3,500.00, helping the Durand Trail with their upgrade work for \$1,500.00 and "T" shirts cost \$1,261.34. We also helped with the cost of painting the interior of the Depot for \$350.00 and split signing costs with the Friends of the Chippewa River Trail for \$564.50. Our major sources of revenue were: \$2,069.35 for trail passes sold, \$1,651.20 for "T" shirts sold and \$1,430.00 for memberships. The closing 12/31/07 balance was \$9,242.51. In addition, there is a balance of \$1,850.00 in the FRCST & HH Ski Grooming fund.

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.

<u>Trail Pass Fees</u>	
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	

<u>MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE FRCST & HH</u>	
<u>Everyone is Welcome</u>	
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	

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CORNER

BARB GORMAN

What a wonderful ski season it has been in December 2007 and continuing into 2008! Ron Pffiffner, Bruce Jordan, Dan Haug and Evan Jordan have been doing a great job grooming the Red Cedar State Trail. Grooming conditions at Hoffman Hills have been outstanding thanks to Jim Janowak and Bob Gores. Many, many, many skiers have been out enjoying the ski trails.

Progress is being made in reducing the damage caused by hikers/walkers. Some skiers will soon be sporting volunteer bibs. These bibs indicate the skier is a volunteer on the Red Cedar State Trail or at Hoffman Hills and will further redirect walkers/hikers to the designated walking trails. New signs were also put up on both ski trails, identifying the two places as designated ski trails. Due to Mother Nature's generosity this year, grooming has occurred more frequently. Donations for continued grooming are needed and can be sent to: FRCST, P.O. Box 628, Menomonie, WI, 54751. Thank you for your support!

SILICA SAND MINE

On November 26, 2007, the Board of Adjustment heard testimony from opponents and supporters of Proppant's application to develop a strip mine on land next to Hoffman Hills. Many people from different organizations and connections with Hoffman Hills presented testimony to the Board of Adjustment. Over five hours of testimony was given. An unofficial tally indicated an overwhelming majority (7:1) were opposed to the strip mine. After a long night of taking testimony, the hearing was closed. A time for Proppant to present rebuttal information and for the Board of Adjustment to ask questions of Proppant was scheduled for December 19, 2007. After another long meeting on 12/19/07, the Board of Adjustment unanimously voted not to grant Proppant an exemption to mine near Hoffman Hills. Both the Tainter Township and the Red Cedar Township had denied Proppant's application and Proppant then appealed to the Board of Adjustment. Proppant has one more avenue to seek relief of the Board of Adjustment's decision. As of January 1, 2008, Proppant has not indicated if they plan to seek an appeal. The Board of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills presented testimony to the Board of Adjustment opposing Proppant's application to strip mine next to Hoffman Hills. The "Save Our Hills" organization gave an outstanding presentation at the 12/19/07 BOA meeting. Their work, dedication, organization and effort were effective and persuasive. Thank you to each and every member who was a part of this presentation.

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AN EVENING RED AND A MORNING GRAY,
WILL SEND THE TRAVELER ON HIS WAY;
BUT AN EVENING GRAY AND A MORNING RED,
PUT ON YOUR HAT, OR YOU'LL WET YOUR HEAD.

- OLD WEATHER PROVERB

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 6)

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 _____

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 | |