

# FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL & HOFFMAN HILLS NEWSLETTER



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Spring 2008

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## Jim Janowak is Retiring

After 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, Jim Janowak is retiring.

The Friends Group will surely miss Jim as will the City of Menomonie, Eau Claire, and surrounding communities who benefited from Jim's leadership. The resources Jim managed have contributed greatly to the quality of life in the Menomonie/Eau Claire area. Jim has a very strong working relationship with the community and partners that include: the City of Menomonie, Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills, Friends of Chippewa River Trail, Optimist Club, Sierra Club, Menomonie Tourism Commission, Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail, and local businesses. Jim was involved with extending the trail system into the Cities of Menomonie and Durand. He was involved in a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in Menomonie which contributed to the success of the Depot at the trailhead on the Red Cedar Trail. Jim initiated the historical restoration of the Depot, including both historical and natural displays to provide an educational, interpretive component.

Jim has always been deeply involved in the cross-country ski trails at Hoffman Hills. His knowledge, expertise, and extra efforts in ski trail grooming were instrumental in establishing a reputation for "the hills" being a premier location for cross-country skiing. Jim was an important link in developing an endowment fund for the exclusive benefit of Hoffman Hills Recreation Area for generations to come. His keen interests in the balance of ecosystems led to the establishment of a native prairie encompassing 35 acres at Hoffman Hills.

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.

In the interim, until a new trail manager is appointed, Scott Erickson, who is the park manager at Lake Wissota State Park, will be acting in that capacity.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 (715) 233-5624

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Scott Erickson, Acting Trail  
 Manager & Park Manager  
 at Lake Wissota State Park  
 (715) 232-1242

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

Activities are being planned to celebrate National Trails Day (NTD) on June 7, 2008. This year, in conjunction with National Trails Day, the cities of Menomonie and Durand are also planning Menomonie/Durand Awareness Day. Menomonie/Durand Awareness Day is to promote the usage of the Red Cedar State Trail and the Chippewa Trail which links the two cities.

For NTD, Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills and DNR trail staff are working on plans for several special programs. At the Depot, programs that the entire family will enjoy are being planned from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. There will be nature walks lead by Dennis Weibel, nature talks by Bill Dingwall and music provided by Jude Marion. For those interested in eradicating garlic mustard, Katie Harrington will be leading a garlic mustard pull. Bad Cat Bicycles and Simple Sports will be there to check over your bike including checking for safety. Friend's merchandise, including newly designed T-shirts will be for sale. The DNR will provide booklets, pamphlets and posters on a number of related subjects. Also, of interest are the many displays in the Depot. Free lemonade and cookies will be provided. As this goes to press, there are a number of other activities that are in the planning stage.

The celebration of Menomonie/Durand Awareness Day features free shuttle service for those who may not want to complete round trips on the trail. There will be scheduled stops in Menomonie, Downsview and Durand. The cities of Menomonie and Durand are providing this service. The Mayor of Menomonie will lead a group ride from Menomonie to Durand departing at 11:30 a.m. At Durand, the Pepin County Board Chair will lead a group ride to Menomonie departing at 8 A.M. Also on that Day, the city of Durand is celebrating Durand Funfest with activities throughout the day and evening.

NTD draws attention to the development of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. 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).

Trail fees are waived for the day; however, yearly trail passes will be available for sale. It will be a good day to plan for a picnic for the family. 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 the DNR office at 715-232-1242 for details.

**FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL & HOFFMAN HILLS MEETING SCHEDULE****Everyone is Welcome**

**Annual Meeting --- June 10, 2008**

**Place: Holiday Manor Inn & Conference Center, Menomonie**

**Time: Social - 6:30 P.M.; Meeting & Program - 7 P.M.**

**Program: Jim Schwiebert, Beaver Creek Reserve Naturalist, speaks on  
Butterfly Gardening**

**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 will be held at the Holiday Manor Inn & Conference Center on June 10, 2008. This Meeting is open to everyone. There will be a social time at 6:30 P.M. with free hors d'oeuvres. The Program starts at 7:00 PM. with a few brief presentations by Board Members reporting on the past years activities and future plans and activities. Then, the feature of the evening will be a presentation by Jim Schwiebert, Beaver Creek Reserve Naturalist. The subject of Jim's presentation is "Butterfly Gardening", with an emphasis on native Wisconsin butterflies. He will briefly cover the life cycle of a butterfly, talk a bit about host plants versus nectar plants, review food sources for adult butterflies, consider other needs - basking and puddling areas, wintering areas. He will point out some things to consider when choosing plants - height, color, etc... Then he'll take a more in-depth look at specific native butterflies and their host plants, review and look at ten of the best nectar plants, some other good attractor plants, and look at a few of the plantings that have been put together and used in their butterfly house at Beaver Creek Reserve. Throughout the evening, there will be an opportunity purchase the newly designed Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills T-shirts. Also, the Friends group is always looking for volunteers for various activities and there will be opportunities for volunteers to sign-up.

## **AD HOC BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY PLANNING COMMITTEE BARB GORMAN**

The Dunn County Ad-Hoc Biking and Pedestrian Committee has continued to meet the past few months. A map of county bike routes has been developed. This map and a written plan will be submitted to the Dunn County Board of Supervisors on May 21, 2008 for approval. Still to be determined is the implementation of the plan. The Dunn County Highway Department will be completing a suitability analysis of the identified bike routes with this plan being completed by January 1, 2009. It is hoped after January 1, 2009, implementation of the bike plan will be done.

The Ad-Hoc committee was formed in response to a petition with over 100 signatures presented to the Dunn County Board of Supervisors requesting a bike/pedestrian lane be added to County Road D from Bongey Drive to Irvington. This section is a major connecting point from the Red Cedar State Trail to Menomonie. It is understood the Dunn County bike route map and accompanying written plan are not yet at the implementation stage. If members of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills concur about a bike path being added, please contact your Dunn County Board Supervisor to express support for adding a bike/pedestrian lane to County Road D. The adding of this lane is a community safety issue, not a special interest issue. The Red Cedar State Trail provides an annual tourism impact of 3 million dollars to Dunn County. It is imperative users of the Red Cedar State Trail can safely get to Menomonie from the trail. A bike/pedestrian path on County Road D addresses this community safety issue.

## **CANDLELIGHT SKI - JANUARY 25, 2008**

On a nearly perfect winter evening, January 25, 2008, approximately 270 people turned out to ski the Red Cedar State Trail and approximately 130 people hiked the Stokke Trail. With the snow that we had this past winter, skiing conditions were ideal. Swiss Miss provided hot chocolate for everyone to enjoy around the warming fire. The Friends Group, DNR personnel and many volunteers made this event very successful by good advance preparation and helping set out the candles and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks to everyone for your help.

**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.

Sam Campbell of Colfax has volunteered to maintain the bluebird houses at Hoffman Hills.

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

\$25 donation from Sandra Nevin in memory of Cathy Simpson.

\$100 donation from Cardinal FG

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**

Mother Nature was very generous providing many, many months of excellent conditions for cross-country skiing. It seemed that once the snow started falling, it couldn't stop, wearing out its welcome in April. The Red Cedar State Trail was kept in excellent groomed condition thanks to Bruce Jordan, Ron Piffner and Dan Haug. A definite increase in the number of skiers enjoyed the groomed Red Cedar State Trail. Conditions at Hoffman Hills were outstanding thanks to grooming by Jim Janowak. Grooming of the Red Cedar State Trail is done by the volunteers of Bruce, Ron and Dan. Grooming at Hoffman Hills is paid for by skier donations, part of business memberships, and DNR funding. Meeting the cost of grooming at Hoffman Hills continues to be challenging. Due to this challenge and safety factors for the skiers, it is important the trails are kept in good condition. Some skiers wore bibs identifying they were a State Park volunteer to help address the problem of the grooming becoming damaged by walkers/hikers. Progress is being made on this issue and less damage occurred this past ski season.

**TREASURER'S TIDBITS**

**TOM KILGORE**

Our membership has grown this year and we welcome all new members. New business members are mentioned elsewhere in this news letter. Spring is the "green" season and green is a Treasurer's favorite color. Your memberships help fund our projects and summer is when we are most active. Thank You for your support.

<b>MEMBERSHIP DETAIL:</b>		<b>'08 Receipts</b>	<b>'08 Mbrs #'s</b>
Sponsoring Members	over \$150	200.00	1
Larger Business / Corp	\$150	\$ 750.00	5
Medium Business	\$75	\$ 375.00	5
Small Business	\$50	\$ 300.00	6
Supporting	\$75	\$ 150.00	2
Contributing	\$50	\$ 150.00	3
Family	\$25	\$ 525.00	21
Individual	\$15	\$ 105.00	7
2008 New Lifetime	\$150	\$ -	0
Lifetime	prior years		23
<b>2008 Memberships collected</b>		<b>\$ 2,555.00</b>	<b>73</b>

**BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP** BARB GORMAN & TOM KILGORE

The annual business membership drive was done in January 2008. A significant increase of business members joined the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills. Projects to maintain and improve the two trails for its users could not be done without the support and contributions of business members. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills appreciates the generosity of Dunn County businesses to protect and sustain these two community resources. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills is working on connecting to the business members' web page from the RCST/HH web site at: <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>. A big thank you to Joe Hagaman for developing the RCST/HH web page. Please support our business members.

**2008 Dunn County Business Members:**

**Sponsoring Business Membership:**

**Re-Max Realty**

**Small Business Memberships:**

**Bad Cat Bicycle  
Phil Steans S.C  
Cedar Corporation  
Gary Welch Construction  
Heritage Builders  
Legacy Chocolates  
Jackie Hunt, State Farm Ins.  
Main Street Framing**

**Large Business Memberships:**

**3M  
Xcel Energy  
Sanna Dairy/Conagra  
Shefchik Builders  
Red Cedar Medical Center**

**Medium Business Memberships:**

**BOMAC Vets Plus Inc  
The Creamery  
Dunn County Energy Cooperative  
Menomonie Farmer's Union Co-op**

**Business Donation:**

**Cardinal Glass**

**THE DEPOT VISITOR CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION**

May 1 until Memorial Day, Labor Day through Oct.  
Weekdays .....Closed  
Saturday - Sunday ..... 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Memorial Day through Labor Day  
Weekdays .....10 A.M. – 4 P.M.  
Saturday - Sunday & Holidays .. 9 A.M. – 5 P.M

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

**TRAIL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**JIM JANOWAK**

As some of you may have heard already, I have decided to retire. After a career through most of my adult life with the DNR and the last 22 years with Red Cedar Trail, Chippewa River Trail and Hoffman Hills, it was a difficult decision. However, the time has come.

I've been fortunate to have had such a wonderful opportunity and will always be grateful to the Department for the appointment and its support. I believe there is another article in this newsletter that is part of a resignation proclamation my supervisor sent in. It points out the partnerships that have been one of the most important areas of the Trails and Hoffman Hills' success in our community. I need to thank you all for making that a highlight of my work here. It is also a reminder that these partnerships are vital to the preservation of our natural and recreational resources in the future. The political and economic outlook remains the same, unfortunately, as is evidenced by the local school board's recent decision to let go of some positions. As I understand it, my former position is planned to be filled again but it is not something that can be taken for granted. Stay informed, be involved and remain active. The influence of the Friend's group and all our other partners is greater than many realize. As individuals, and collectively, we are able to make a difference. Hopefully, the next generation will carry it on.

As for me, I have the (slightly more than) usual honey-do-list, a new fish pole, some land to tend and family to catch up on. I'll probably poke my nose in a few issues from time to time, too. (Oh yeah...If the price of gas doesn't stop rising I may be looking for another job!).

Thanks for making Menomonie home. We'll see you around town sometime.

**REFLECTIONS . . . . .**

Since Jim announced his retirement, many have had the chance to share experiences with Jim and to wish him an enjoyable retirement and to thank him for his contributions to our community. In addition, below are comments from some individuals who have come to know him and worked closely with him:

I was the first president of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and I always enjoyed working with Jim. We started with no money and no real revenue source but we all shared our enthusiasm for that wonderful trail. Jim was very patient as we took our first small steps towards becoming the real asset to the trail that the Friends are today. Jim's warm smiles always kept us going. **DENNIS OLSON**

It would be impossible to list just one favorite memory of Jim because he has done so many things to improve the special resources that Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail are for Dunn County. The first time I met Jim was at a Candlelight Ski and he was distributing membership brochures for the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills. I would then see Jim taking pictures of us skiers against the backdrop of the ice wall and he so considerately passed along these pictures. I would ski up a hill at Hoffman Hills only to find Jim trying to get the grooming machine unstuck. I would see Jim on the Red Cedar State Trail or the Chippewa River Trail, removing a down tree. I would always see Jim working to improve the trails during times when it was non-traditional work hours. And yet, he was always working during the traditional work hours as well. I would talk to Jim once or twice a week because he would call to check up on the grooming he had done and to ask for suggestions. Jim's heart and vision has always been to preserve nature areas. Thank you Jim, from my heart. **BARB GORMAN**

We had recently moved to Menomonie from the Twin Cities, and in 2002, we saw advertised, the Candlelight Ski on the Red Cedar State Trail and thought that it would be a fun thing to do. When we got to the depot, we found no one there except Jim (our first meeting) informing people that the event was cancelled because of the cold. He probably thought what are these fools doing out on such a cold night, but that didn't stop him from spending some time talking to us about the Trail, Friends Group, etc. We were impressed with his dedication and enthusiasm and, ultimately, led us to become active volunteers. Enjoy retirement, Jim! **DALE & CAROL SEPPEA**

Jim is quiet man, with persuasive charm! For example, his pitch to be on the Friends board usually involved the mention that it was only for a one or two year term. To me, he said they needed a treasurer to fill in until the annual meeting! That was fifteen years ago! It has been a pleasure to work with Jim! **TOM KILGORE**

**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)



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*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    |  |