

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 42

Winter 2010

In This Issue

Candlelight Ski	1
President's Report	2
Treasurer's Tidbits	2
Thank You Volunteers	3
Meeting Schedule	3
Cross-Country Ski Corner	4
Biking News	4
Menomin Park	5
Business Membership	6
Depot Hours	6
Varieties	7
Friends Membership Form	8

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& Park Manager at Lake Wissota State
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Candlelight Ski – January 29, 2010

The annual popular winter event, the Candlelight Ski, will be held on January 29, 2010 from 6 - 9 P.M. The Red Cedar State Trail and the Stokke Trail will be lit with luminaries. Again this year, there is the opportunity to snowshoe on an illuminated trail at neighboring Riverside Park. With the snow that we have had this season, it shapes up to be a great night to enjoy these winter activities. The Red Cedar State Trail will be open for skiing 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. 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 at 232-5625, in advance. The Stokke Trail will be cleared to provide the opportunity for those wishing to take a candlelight walk. For those interested in snowshoeing, either bring your own snowshoes, or free snowshoes will be provided by the Menomonie School District for everyone in the family to hike at Riverside Park.

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.

A Free Night of Fun for All!!

President's Report**Doug Voy**

The Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills do a few projects every year to help maintain these properties we are associated with. Dedicated volunteers provide many hours of service in these efforts.

The DNR staff we help in these projects do an excellent job of providing services to the users of these facilities on a day-to-day basis. They do everything from removing fallen trees, mowing, maintaining the restrooms, selling trail passes, providing interesting displays in the Depot Visitor Center and many other tasks. Two long-time DNR maintenance workers for these properties retired this year. Bob Goers and Bill Hewitt did a terrific job keeping the facilities in first-rate condition for the visitors. They were also very cooperative with the Friends volunteers in providing equipment, advice and help with the projects we took on. Bob and Bill were always willing to help with the Candlelight ski event by providing help with putting out candles, providing a warming fire outside the Depot and helping with parking control. Their efforts are much appreciated and will be sorely missed.

The new maintenance worker with the DNR is Sean Davidson. Sean has continued the tradition of taking good care of the properties and assisting the Friends group.

Penny Thiede-Klish works in Visitor Services by selling trail passes, providing information and displays at the Depot Visitor Center.

Scott Erickson, the property manager for the DNR, is based out of Lake Wissota State Park has also assisted the Friends group in many ways including assistance in a grant application for upgrading the ramp at the Depot.

Please join me in showing appreciation for the DNR staff that make these State properties the jewels that we all enjoy.

Treasurer's Tidbits**Tom Kilgore**

**Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Treasure's Report
For the Year Ending December 31, 2009.**

Operating Cash Account	\$9,024.93
Hoffman Hills Grooming Account	\$2,053.79
Stewardship Grant – Depot Ramp/Stairs Account	\$124.00
Hoffman Hills Burr Oak Savanna Account	\$4,381.75

Charlie Brown: "The rain falls on the just and the unjust."
Lucy: "That's a good system."

From 2009 Peanuts Calendar

Thank You Volunteers

Many volunteers give of their time to help maintain the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. Volunteers, who staff the visitor center at the Depot, assist users, provide educational information, sell passes and always seem to have a smile and friendly greeting. Their time and assistance helps all users have an enjoyable experience. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills thanks them for their work, time and commitment. Depot Staff volunteers included Don Kuether, Ray Barlow, Dennis Weibel, Harry Stai, Tom and Linda Walsh, Jane Butsic, Jan Harvey, and Steve Vandeberg. Weekend staff included Judy Kirk, Sarah Lannon, Josh Grose and Kathy LaPean. Substitutes included Judy Kirk and Steve Cole.

Many contributed on special projects throughout the year. Katie Harrington coordinated a group of motivated people to help with Garlic Mustard eradication. These volunteers took approximately 25 large garbage bags of garlic mustard from the trail. Joel Toms spent a couple of mornings helping remove buckthorn on the trail. At Hoffman Hills new turnarounds were cut into the brush for the volunteer ski trail grooming. Thank you to Pete and Julie May, Paul Peltier and Barb Flom.

Since the snow has fallen and the trails have been groomed, it has been just amazing to see the number of people out enjoying the ski trails at Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail. The folks who groom the trails are all volunteers and put in many long hours to get the trails to the excellent condition the skiers enjoy. Often times, the grooming is done in the wee late hours of the night to allow the snow to set up. The snow is then groomed again to set the track and rake the skating lane. Bruce Jordan and Ron Pfiffner do a phenomenal job on the Red Cedar State Trail. Last year when volunteer groomers were needed at Hoffman Hills, members of MAMBA-Menomonie Area Mountain Bike Association, took a lead role to do the grooming. These members spend many hours at Hoffman Hills perfecting the conditions. Thank you to all the groomers and those who have volunteered to do grooming: Bruce Jordan, Ron Pfiffner, David Gorman, Pete May, Paul Peltier, Sean Bujold, Roger Magnuson, Kim Wentworth, Todd Burns, Chris Ruch, Jerry Porter, Bill Kryshak, John Wesolek, Randy Eide, Paul Sterk, Jim Tenorio and Dan Haug.

Although volunteers do the grooming, expenses for grooming are still incurred. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills has an established grooming fund. Money from this fund in 2009 helped pay for badly needed repairs of the grooming equipment. It also helps to pay for signs, educational materials and other expenses. Donations to the grooming fund are always welcomed and appreciated. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, see the form on the last page of this newsletter.

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Meeting Schedule

Everyone is Welcome

Regular Meetings ---First Thursday of the months of Jan., March, May, Sept., Nov.

Time: 7 P.M.

Place: Leisure Services Center (Senior Center), Menomonie

WEB Site: <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>

The best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your own arm.

Swedish Proverb

Cross Country Ski Corner**Barb Gorman**

With Mother Nature's generous supply of snow, cross-country skiers have been enjoying great ski trail conditions. Conditions at Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail are excellent. Both trails are groomed for the classical stride and skate stride. The trails are in good condition because of the amount of work and time the volunteer groomers have contributed. The Red Cedar State Trail has been groomed by Bruce Jordan and Ron Pfiffner. After the first snowfall, the trail was groomed for perfect skiing. Within 24 hours of grooming having been completed, an unknown ATV rider went for a ride down the middle of the trail from Irvington to Downsville. Bruce was back to grooming the next day, trying to repair the damage done by the ATV. The snow provided by Mother Nature around Christmas helped to repair the damage and gave the trail a hard packed base. This base creates good skiing conditions when the smaller snowfalls cover the trail.

Hoffman Hills is also in good skiing condition. Pete May, Jerry Porter, Sean Bujold, Roger Magnuson and Paul Peltier have spent many hours at Hoffman Hills refining the groomed trails. After the Christmas snow fall, the groomers may have spent more time getting the equipment unstuck, but more than made up for this difficulty by providing excellent groomed trails. The groomers have worked to widen a few of the trails and their work and effort has resulted in easier movement of skis.

Walking on the groomed trails continues to be a problem at both ski trails. At Hoffman Hills, walkers are not using the assigned route to the tower. Rather, walkers are using the groomed trails. Walking trails continue to be available at different sections at Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail. Signs indicating the trails are for skiing only have been put up by volunteers. These signs, especially at the Red Cedar State Trail, have helped to lessen the damage to the grooming.

Despite the cooler temperatures, skiers of all abilities and interest have been out enjoying cross-country skiing. Thank you Groomers!

Biking News**Barb Gorman**

Although it may be hard to visualize warm biking weather in the middle of January, an exciting bike event will be visiting Menomonie on June 19, 2010. A stage of the Nature Valley Grand Prix professional bike race will be held in Dunn County. Men and women, pro and amateur racers, will be competing. In addition to the race, many activities are being planned. Food courts, guided bike tours, health exposition and guided community tours are being planned. More information will be provided as events develop.

People who aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves seldom lose their shirts.

Anonymous

Menomin Park Update

Dale Seppa

As reported in the last newsletter, mountain bike/ snowshoe trails were being added to Menomin Park. This system of trails was created by the ‘Menomonie Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA)’. The charter members of this group are Paul Peltier, Pete May, Steve Brown, Randy Eide, Mark Vinall, Sean Bujold and Phil Motley. This past summer, work began on the creation of the trail system under the leadership of Trail Coordinator, Paul Peltier. The members have used their own tools and in some cases have bought additional tools. They have also provided materials and have had some donated for signage. No tax payer money has been used for this project. The trails are being built to the standards of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). This involves designing trails which are sustainable and minimize any effects of erosion, etc. Since the publication of the last newsletter, an additional mile of trail has been completed making, approximately, two miles of single track trail.

Now that winter is here, many people continue to use the current wide hiking trails (approximately 5 miles) for hiking, snowshoeing and untracked cross-country skiing. They now have additional single track trails that provide a different perspective for snowshoeing. These new trails are marked by signs which indicate, “Mountain Biking/Snowshoe trail.

The group (MAMBA) is currently planning to add more trails at the far north end of the park. During the winter, routes for these trails will be planned out with work starting in the spring. Obviously, a lot of “sweat-equity” has gone into this project. In addition to the seven charter members, other people who made significant contributions are Jerry and Kim Porter, Brian Braun, Brian LaVoy, Kim Wentworth, Ron Welch and Jane Brakken. Also, a number of UW-Stout students have been involved.

A Note from the Editor

As a Member of the Friends Group, periodically, you receive a Newsletter by mail. This provides you with news, activities and up-coming events related to the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. You will still periodically receive newsletters by mail; however, less often. The Friends Group has a WEB site which is updated in a much timelier manner. <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>

We have decided to make more use of this WEB site by also not sending out paper copies of every newsletter, and instead, informing you by postcard when an issue of the newsletter has been added to the WEB site. Current plans are to mail paper versions twice a year: at the beginning and at the middle of the year. You are encouraged to explore this WEB site as there are a number of items of interest.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.
Robert Frost

Business Membership Barb Gorman & Tom Kilgore

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills continues to be fortunate with the memberships of several Dunn County businesses. All memberships are important to the Friends' group as this support helps to improve and sustain the two beautiful nature areas. Businesses have shown an extra commitment to help the Friends and become members. Please support the business members of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills:

BOMAC Vets Plus Inc

Menomonie Farmers Union Co-op

Bad Cat Bicycles, Pete May

The Medicine Shoppe

Dunn Energy Cooperative

Xcel Energy

Gentle Dental Care, Dr. Lisa Joyce

ConAgra/Swiss Miss

Heritage Builders Inc

Dr. Dan Wood, DDS

3M Corporation

Gary Welch Construction

Simple Sports, Rory Fedderson

Cardinal Glass

Main Street Framing, Julie Kuehl

Red Cedar Medical Center

State Farm Insurance, Jackie Hunt

Phillips Plastics, Skip Swanson

Thank You Friends' Business Members

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.

**The fall of a leaf is a whisper to the living.
Russian Proverb**

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 and information on Friends activities.

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.

Donation Information

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. 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. The Friends express our thanks and appreciate the generosity of all donors.

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

**The reward of a thing well done
is to have done it.**

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**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 3)**



Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills

Join Today!

**(or renew your membership)
Dues for 2010 (Jan. – Dec.)**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

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 | | |

Special Contribution to the CC Ski Grooming Fund _____

Annual Memberships Include:

- **Membership Card**
- **Newsletters**
- **Information on Activities**

**Make checks payable to:
Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail
P.O. Box 628
Menomonie, WI 54751**