

Friends of the
Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills
Newsletter



Number 43

Spring/Summer 2010

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National Trails Day - June 5, 2010

Activities are being planned to celebrate National Trails Day (NTD) on June 5, 2010. 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. Dennis Weibel will lead a nature walk at 10 A.M. Then at 11 A.M., experiences of the voyagers will be presented by 3 Pieces, the Voyager (Jim Swanson). At noon, Kenton Whitman and Rebecca will give a presentation on snakes and will have live snakes for you to see up close. At 1 P.M, you can learn about owls with Bill Dingwall in his presentation "Guess Who Gives a Hoot". A feature this year from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. will be an exhibit of raptors including eagles from the University of Minnesota Raptor Center. For those interested in eradicating garlic mustard, Katie Harrington will discuss this invasive species as well as lead a garlic mustard pull if you desire. 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, nature cards and posters on a number of related subjects. Also, there will be door prizes. Be sure to check out 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.

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. The Buck will sell lunch with proceeds going to the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. We hope to see you there!

Annual Meeting - June 10, 2010

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills will be held at the EconoLodge Inn & Suites (formerly the Holiday Manor Inn & Conference Center) on Thursday, June 10, 2010. 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. The program this year is entitled "Wildlife Action: A visit to Crex Meadows". It will be presented by Dale Bohlke, an avid nature photographer and Crex volunteer. It will feature wildlife action that has been recorded at Crex Meadows over the last 3 years. This multimedia presentation will show the history of Crex Meadows, its wildlife in action, and provide a video review of Crex through the seasons. A part of Wisconsin's scenic Indianhead Country, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area is located in Burnett County, just north of the Village of Grantsburg. At 30,000 acres Crex is the largest state owned wildlife area in Wisconsin. This intensively managed property is home to 270 species of birds and 750 species of plants. A wide variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects also reside here. The rare sedge marsh and brush prairie habitats make the area a utopia for wildlife, which, in turn, makes Crex a paradise for bird watchers, naturalists, botanists, photographers, and hunters.

Throughout the evening, there will be an opportunity to 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.

Trail manager's Report

Scott Erickson, DNR

Due to the wonderful early spring this year; the Red Cedar Trail has already had many visitors. The large-flowered trilliums were out at the end of April and our wildlife is abundant again, as always, with a variety of birds as well as snakes showing up along the trail. Please use caution when biking between mile markers 11 and 13; this area is especially popular for snakes laying out in the sun on the trail. We have hired a new employee (Tim Fasbender) on the trails this summer. Tim is from Menomonie and also works full time for the Menomonie Fire Department. He has a busy work schedule but when you bump into Tim on the Trails or at Hoffman Hills, please take a moment to say hello. Interviews will soon be conducted for the full-time position of Ranger/Manager who works out of the Menomonie office and we are all anxious to have this position filled once again.

A special thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who have taken time out of their busy personal schedules to help us accomplish our goal in providing a high quality recreational experience

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Joys come from simple and natural
things: mists over meadows, sunlight
on leaves, the path of the moon
over water.

Sigurd F. Olson

President's Report**Doug Voy**

The Friends group has been busy since our last newsletter with a very successful candlelight ski in January, plans for National Trails Day, high-school volunteers on Earth Day at Hoffman Hills, a Work Play Earth Day volunteer clean up at the Depot and hiring a naturalist for summer education programs. On April 24th DNR staff and the Friends hosted a Work Play Earth Day volunteer day at the Depot Visitor Center. Penny Thiede-Klish and Bill Hewitt of the DNR staff and nine volunteers helped to clean up the Depot inside and out in preparation for the season. Shawn Phetteplace brought 6 volunteers from Representative Ron Kind's volunteer organization, Kind Communities, to help out with everything from taking off storm windows and installing screens to giving the inside of the Depot a good cleaning to picking up trash and cutting buckthorn.

The Depot Visitor Center opened on weekends for the season on May 1st from 9 to 5 and will be open weekdays between Memorial Day and Labor Day from 10 to 4. Please stop in and visit us to pick up your trail pass or to check out the exhibits or pick up some of the many brochures available about our area. Garlic Mustard is actively growing along the trail and we will welcome any help from volunteers to help Katie Harrington reduce this invasive that can take over most plants along the trail. We will also welcome any help we can get for the ongoing battle against buckthorn, another invasive that is taking over our beautiful trail.

As this newsletter goes to press the Friends group has just received a letter indicating an award from Friends of Wisconsin State Parks for \$1,000 from the Affinity Card Naturalist Grant program. We will use these proceeds to hire Bill Dingwall to present 4 programs this summer to educate area youth about the natural world of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills. The first program will be Who Gives a Hoot, about owls, presented during our National Trails Day Event on June 5th. We will post the topics and dates of the other three programs on our website.

Please contact any of our Board members with questions or if you are interested in volunteer opportunities. Contact information is available at <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>.

Treasurer's Report**Tom Kilgore**

The membership renewal cards went out last month and many have responded. The member list will be available at the Annual Meeting, so send your renewal now to make the list!! Our current membership consists of 4 "Contributing," 19 "Family," 9 "Individual," and 1 new "Lifetime" member.

As this goes to the Editor, we have \$8,280.52 in our operating cash account and are holding \$2,506.00.00 for grooming at Hoffman Hills. Our Ramp/stairway Grant account has a remaining balance of \$124.00 and our Burr Oak Savanna account has a balance of \$9,381.75.

Webmaster Report**Joe Hagaman**

The Friends website use has increased over the past year. So far in 2010, the page views per month have been averaging 1500 to 2000 which is about twice the monthly level for 2009. Check it out for yourself at <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>. You will find all sorts of information that will help you enjoy our two premier recreational destinations in the county. For you on-road bikers there is also a page showing the Dunn County Bike Routes just developed this past year.

Earth Day at Hoffman Hills

Jane Butsic

A school bus load of High School Seniors and two teachers from the High School arrived out at Hoffman Hills with rakes, saws and brooms for our first Earth Day with the High School at Hoffman Hills. We started our morning talking about Hoffman Hills, the Friends group and our project, cleaning the trails. Doug Voy and Jane Butsic reminded them that they could break out with poison ivy even though it did not have leaves and that they needed to take care as they stepped off the trail to toss sticks. We divided into four groups and set off for the tower. Every group had a map to follow so that all eight miles of the trail would be cleaned. None of the 20 students had ever been to the tower! After oranges at the top we finished cleaning the loops on the ridge and went to the other side. By lunch time, all of the Hills had been cleaned. The students were surprised that very little litter was found! We did find and pull one patch of garlic mustard on the top of the ridge. After lunch, our goal was to clean the meadow and the group camping area. The students were pretty tired and only the meadow trail was cleaned. After hearing about how much was accomplished at the other work area, we decided that our project was not as grand, but we did have 20 students experience the outdoors and the view from the top. We hope they will return to hike again, not just on Earth Day, but because they enjoyed the beauty of the earth and Hoffman Hills.

THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL

Spring and summer are arriving at last.
"Old Man Winter", is a person of the past.
Good cross-country skiing, the trail had been great,
But wintertime on the trail will now just have to wait.
The trail is teeming with bikers and hikers and runners each day.
The young and the old loving each moment as they go out to play
The wildlife is darting in and out of the woods.
Bird songs from above keep us all in good moods.
So get out there and join them to bike, hike and run,
Will be a magnificent day with loads of fun!

. An Enthusiastic Fan of the Trail

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/>

Biking News

Barb Gorman

Grand Prix Bike Race

The Nature Valley Grand Prix Bike Race is coming to Dunn County. Mark your calendars for June 19, 2010; it should be a spectacular day. Stage 4 of the 5 stage bike race will take on the challenges of Dunn County's biggest and best hills. Men and women, pro and amateur racers, will be competing. Besides the pro bike race, many activities are being planned for spectators and participants. Downtown Menomonie will host several booths and fairs. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills will be present, selling t-shirts and providing informational brochures. Bike tours, races for the biking enthusiasts, and tours of cultural and historical sites are being planned. It should be a great day.

Thank You

The Friends Group is indebted to many volunteers who generously give of their time and talents and also of their financial contributions. In listing people to thank for the volunteer work that they do, there is always the danger of forgetting individuals who generously volunteer their services. We thank them all. Below are some of the recent groups that we would like to acknowledge for their volunteer work.

- ❖ All the people who helped make the Candlelight Ski successful and the support of Swiss Miss
- ❖ Cross-country skiing trails at Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail were wonderfully groomed by a dedicated group of volunteers.
- ❖ The work of Katie Harrington and the volunteers who have helped in the eradication of garlic mustard, an invasive species.
- ❖ A group of High School Seniors led by Jane Butsic helped do clean-up work at Hoffman Hills.
- ❖ The depot was cleaned and readied for the coming season by DNR staff and a group of volunteers led by Doug Voy.
- ❖ The Friends Group would like to thank the friends of Roger Mussetter for their donation of \$150 in his memory.

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.

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:

Bad Cat Bicycles, Pete May**Cedar Corporation****Cardinal Glass****ConAgra/Swiss Miss****Dr. Dan Wood, DDS****Gentle Dental Care, Dr. Lisa Joyce****Phil Steans, SC****Phillips Plastics****Xcel Energy****Heritage Builders Inc****Thank You Friends' Business Members****The Depot Visitor Center Hours of Operation****May 1 until Memorial Day, Labor Day through Oct.**

WeekdaysClosed

Saturday - Sunday 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Please Note: The Depot is closed from November until May.**Memorial Day through Labor Day**

Weekdays10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Saturday - Sunday & Holidays .. 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Charlie Brown: "Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I wonder, " Is life like golf
or is it more like baseball?"

Then a voice comes to me out of the dark that says,
"Try Shuffleboard".

From 2009 Peanuts Calendar

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 have 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

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 4)**



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 | | |

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

Special Contribution to the CC Ski Grooming Fund _____