

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 52 - Fall 2013

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Barb Gorman
Ellen Ochs
Joe Hagaman, Webmaster
and Newsletter Editor

DNR Representatives

Scott Erickson
Michael Rivers
Calvin Kunkle
Penny Thiede-Klish



Dusti Merkel and Ellen Ochs

"FRIENDS" AT "MEET MENOMONIE" 2013

On the 3rd of September, Stout's "Meet Menomonie" event gave an opportunity for promoting the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills to students new to our area. Dusti Merkel and Ellen Ochs put together a table next to that of the Menomonie Chamber at the beginning of the line. The Chamber's Joan Friedenfels also helped to welcome students and we received plenty of attention from the nearly 1000 students attending! This may have been because of the stuffed owl & fox on loan from the Depot, or because of the prize drawing for "Friends" T-shirts, or perhaps because of the mini donuts and homemade cookies we offered! In any case, we had to move our table back a bit to make room for all the students who stopped to talk with us, and many entered the drawing and picked up brochures, while quite a few signed up to volunteer. We should certainly call on them!

Trail Manager's Report

Cal Kunkle

We've had quite a year along the trails again. From having 18 inches of snow in May to another long dry summer. However, we accomplished a lot of work with help from volunteers and community groups.

I'll start off thanking everyone for helping at National Trails Day held on June 1st. Again this year we had a fishing clinic at Riverside Park. I especially want to thank Andrew Welsch for help putting worms on hooks and keeping all the kids entertained. Also want to thank Bait on Broadway for supplying bait and prizes to some much appreciative children. I think we caught every type of fish imaginable and got some young anglers excited about fishing. Couldn't be a better day!

Like the National Trails Day event, there are many volunteer based projects and events that support our state trails and parks. We had 28 students from Menomonie middle school help pick up garbage and pull garlic mustard along the Red Cedar Trail as well as clean up the depot for the summer season. We had another 15 young people from the Menomonie Workforce Resource Center cut invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle at the trailhead. That work day couldn't have been a success without support from the West Central Wisconsin Invasive Plant Management Area group that provided tools, expertise, and informational handouts. These are just a few examples of the great work and commitment the local community provides to make the trails a great place for all to enjoy.

Of course I can't forget about Hoffman Hills. We planted another 30 acres of prairie to expand the Don and Nola Schley Oak Savanna which couldn't have been done without support from the Friends Group and their success in obtaining a state Stewardship grant for \$10,000. Dave Williams from the local Optimist Club was able to take some really nice pictures on the site prep burn which one can be seen below. Besides the oak savanna you may be seeing additional changes out at the hills. We're continually improving the trail network by re-grading some sections of trails, re-routing others, adding signage, and widening them for cross country skiing. Next year we will probably be doing another timber sale to promote early successional forest habitat in conjunction with expanding the oak savanna habitats and to support additional trail repairs. Forest management practices may be unappealing in the short term but they are vital for many wildlife species. For you birders out there these changes could mean opportunities to see golden winged warblers, blue winged warblers, black and yellow billed cuckoos, and red headed woodpeckers.

Thank you all for another wonderful year! Yeah, it might be early but get those skiis ready.



Treasurer's Report

Nancy Flyen

Our 2013 membership collections amounted to a total of \$1,025.00 with half of the business collections going to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. Of the \$1,025 collected only \$150 was from businesses, therefore \$75 was transferred to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. Transferred from the grant account was an amount of \$124.00. Earlier in the year we received \$169.40 for 2012 trail passes sold by the Chamber. At Hoffman Hills, we have received donations specific to grooming in the amount of \$25, year to date.

As of September 30th we have an operating balance of \$808.69 and a Hoffman Hills grooming balance of \$1,713. Additionally, the operating account balance includes memorial donations received from the family of Marian Hoffman in the amount of \$245.00. We thank the Hoffman family for this donation. The Grant account has a remaining balance of \$25.61 and our Burr Oak Savanna/Hoffman Hills account has a balance of \$2,128.88. Ten thousand dollars was transferred from the Hoffman Hills Burr Oak Savanna Account into the grant account to cover the Friends portion of the restoration of the additional 30 acres of the Oak Savannah.

Cross Country Skiing

Barb Gorman

With the great Fall weather Dunn County has been experiencing, it is hard to even say the word "Snow," but all the cross-country skiers eagerly await when they can put on their skis and enjoy the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. Both places will again have volunteer groomers. Some year, I am going to have t-shirts for them that say- hug your groomer. They are just the best. Trail work at Hoffman Hills to prepare for the ski season was done on October 12, 2013 by the Optimist Club and other volunteers. A big thank you to these volunteers, their work is much appreciated. Several groomers are in place for the Red Cedar State Trail. If you are interested and/or willing to groom at Hoffman Hills, please let me know at: gorbadd@charter.net, or Calvin Kunkle at calvin.kunkle@wisconsin.gov The heated gator will again be used for grooming at Hoffman Hills – comfort while you groom!

Webmaster Report

Joe Hagaman

The website for the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills has been totally revised. Check it out at <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>. If you have any corrections or suggestions for inclusion on the site, send them to Joe Hagaman hagamani@uwstout.edu. For you on-road bikers there is also a page showing the Dunn County Bike Routes. For you off-road bikers, check out the link to MAMBA.

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.

Annual Meeting Minutes - Sept. 8, 2013**Barb Gorman**

Board members present: Joe Hagaman, Doug Voy, Barb Gorman

Also present: Calvin Kunkle, DNR property manager and Joan Friedenfels, Chamber of Commerce

A potluck was provided before the annual meeting to thank various volunteers for their work at the depot and their work on behalf of the RCST/HH. Gift certificates were presented to the volunteers from the Chamber. Thank you each and every one who volunteers for the FRCST/HH- your work is most appreciated!

- Minutes from the 5/2/13 Board meeting were approved.
- Much of the work for the wildflower prairie has been completed. The field has been sprayed, seed has been purchased and planted, and the field has been mowed. It is anticipated that trees will be planted in about three years. Thank you Calvin for all your work on this great project! And, Doug too, who has put in a lot of work.
- Treasurer's report presented. Once the grant account is closed, the State will reimburse the FRCST its \$5,000 match funds. The FRCST/HH balance is \$4,486.79
- Doug will be obtaining bids for sealing and restriping of the parking lot, the remodel of the depot to move the service window, and for refastening the shingles on the gazebo. It is anticipated the reimbursed \$5,000 from the grant will cover these expenses.
- There will be a Fall newsletter. Articles should be sent to Joe by October 11, 2013. Joe has redesigned the FRCST/HH web page and it looks great. Thank you Joe.
- The meet Menomonie night for UW-Stout students had a good turn out and went well. The FRCST/HH had 2 tables and held up the line due to interested students. Volunteer sign-up was successful.
- Doug and Calvin discussed plans for developing signs for the Oak Savannah project at Hoffman Hills.
- On September 18, 2013, several students will be volunteering pulling buck thorn. The Optimist Club is planning a trail cleaning day. Great volunteer work!
- More t-shirts will be ordered, the depot is almost out of the current design. Also agreed to split the cost of brochures with the Chamber of Commerce, as more are needed.
- Barb will contact possible volunteer groomers to ascertain who is willing to groom at both trails.
- Meeting adjourned.
- Next Board meeting is **November 7, 2013, noon, at the Leisure Center.**

President's Report

Doug Voy

Greetings Friends, I hope you had a wonderful summer enjoying the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills. We had a terrific National Trails Day celebration. I would like to send out a big thank you to all who participated, especially the Raptor Center and Kenton Whitman. Thanks also to Diane Simon of the Optimist Club for providing some delicious lunches. Next year's event will be on June 7th, so mark your calendars.

The Depot Visitor Center was very busy again this year with the Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce staffing on the weekends, the Friends group providing volunteers during the week and the DNR staff, especially Penny, who provide many publications and bring us the Monarch butterfly display. Thanks to all who serve the patrons of the Red Cedar Trail.

We have had many volunteer groups help with buckthorn eradication and cleanup of the grounds around the Depot Visitor Center as well as trail clearing at Hoffman Hills. Please contact me or any of the Board members if you are interested in volunteering at one of our beautiful recreational properties.

Our next event is the Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe/Hike at the Red Cedar Trail on January 31st. Please come out and enjoy the beauty of winter and some hot chocolate provided by Swiss Miss.

I hope you have a wonderful fall season enjoying the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills.

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.

**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.



Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills

Join Today!

(or renew your membership)
Dues for 2012 (Jan. – Dec.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

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

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 _____