

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 53 - Winter 2014

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Candlelight Ski - Friday, January 31st

The annual popular winter event, the Candlelight Ski, will be held on January 31, 2014 from 6 - 9 P.M. The Red Cedar State Trail and the Stokke Trail will be lit with luminaries. Also 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 illuminated 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 snowshoe 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, ConAgra and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

A Free Night of Fun for All!!

Trail Manager's Report

Cal Kunkle

As I'm writing this report I'm watching the first major winter storm of 2014 hit us with 6-8' of snow. The ski season has been pretty good so far with snow coming every couple of days early on. Volunteer groomers have been trying to keep up and have really done a fantastic job on the trails. If you're skiing thank these dedicated volunteers for their efforts.

The snow fall is also good to see as we'll be able to use our new grooming equipment that's coming very soon. Again, the Friends Group was given another grant from the Hoffman Hills Fund by the Community Foundation of Dunn County to purchase this new equipment. Total cost comes in just over \$7,000! You can read all about the equipment from the manufacturer's website below.

<http://www.yellowstonetrack.com/snowmobilegroomingequipment/108ginzugroomer.html>

The machine will be stationed at Hoffman Hills. Skiers and groomers should really see improvements as the new machine is larger and has a better track setting system. This new equipment and our great trails would not be possible without support from the community, volunteers, Friend's members, and others that support these properties. Thanks again, and enjoy the trails!



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Membership

Ellen Ochs

The following people have renewed membership since Dec. 1st, 2013:

Dan & Mary Riordan, Marie Young, Dennis Kropp, Thomas Lacksonnen, Mike Brandt & Lorene Vedder, Jean Biggs, Mike & Becky Kneer, Fred & Ellen Ochs, Nancy Flyen & Charles Walters, Chad & Zachary Rindy, Lee & Jill Schwebs, Dave & Barb Gorman.

And the following businesses: Gentle Dental Care (Lisa Joyce) & Cardinal FG.

Treasurer's Report**Nancy Flyen**

Our 2013 membership collections amounted to a total of \$1,740.00 with half of the business collections going to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. Of the \$1,740 collected only \$350 was from businesses, therefore \$175 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 Hill, we have received donations specific to grooming in the amount of \$250, year to date. We also received a donation specific to Hoffman Hills in the amount of \$250 in memory of Cindy Rindy. Additionally we received a sizeable sum from the Hoffman Hills Recreation Area Fund, a fund of Community Foundation of Dunn County (Foundation) in the amount of \$8595.77.

As of December 31, 2013 we have an operating balance of \$1661.77 and a Hoffman Hills grooming balance of \$1,788, the Rindy memorial of \$250 and Foundation money designated for a new. Total dollars designated to Hoffman Hills are \$10,633.77. Additionally, the operating account balance includes memorial donations received from the family of Marian Hoffman in the amount of \$675.00. 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 \$1,128.88. 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.

President's Report**Doug Voy**

The Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe/Walk is coming up on Friday, January 31st from 6-9 pm. We have plenty of snow so it should be a fun event. A trail pass is not required for skiing during the event. The School District of the Menomonie Area is loaning us snow shoes again this year for anyone who wants to try them out. Thanks to Bill Dingwall for facilitating this again this year. Swiss Miss will again sponsor the event and provide all the hot chocolate for everyone. Thank you Swiss Miss! The DNR staff will provide a bonfire for warming and the Chamber of Commerce staff will be on hand to sell annual trail passes. Thanks to Joan Friedenfels for helping out the Friends group. A special thank you to all the volunteers who make this event happen. Enjoy the snow!

The Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills has received a grant from the Hoffman Hills Foundation through the Community Foundation of Dunn County for new grooming equipment at Hoffman Hills. The new Ginzu Groomer from Yellowstone Track Systems is state of the art grooming equipment that will fit in nicely with the new trail reroutes at Hoffman Hills. The DNR should take delivery of the equipment before the candlelight ski event. The Red Cedar Trail ski grooming will improve as well as grooming equipment from Hoffman Hills will be reallocated to the Red Cedar Trail. A special thanks to Bill Butsic of the Hoffman Hills foundation and Linda McIntyre of the Community Foundation for facilitating this grant.

Cross Country Skiing**Barb Gorman**

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, skiing at Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail has been fantastic this ski season, both due to Mother Nature's supply of snow and the hard work by the volunteer groomers to keep the trails in great condition. Grooming is cold, hard work and the groomers' time and effort is much appreciated. Thank you groomers: Bill Kryshak, Dan Gainey, John Hutchinson, John Wesolek, Jim Tenorio and David Gorman. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills has been fortunate to have partnerships with other community groups and the DNR to keep improving the grooming. A year ago, the Friends group was able to purchase a new gator to use at Hoffman Hills. This purchase was made possible by the Hoffman Hills Foundation, the Friends group, the Community Foundation, the Optimist Club and the DNR. This year, the Friends group was able to purchase new grooming equipment for Hoffman Hills due to the generosity of the Hoffman Hills Foundation. The equipment that was used at Hoffman Hills will be used at the Red Cedar State Trail, enhancing both ski areas. Business memberships helped the Friends group to be able to purchase the equipment- thank you Dunn County business supporters!

Skiing on the Red Cedar State Trail over the weekend of January 11, 2014, the ice wall was a beautiful blue and looks ready to be lit for the Candlelight Ski. More on the Candlelight Ski appears in other sections of the newsletter.

The Friends group has discussed how to best address the problem of folks walking on the groomed trails. Signs are posted and continued education about the trails being a ski only use in the winter is done. Walkers have separate, designated trails to use for walking, but damaging of the grooming done by walking continues. A more organized volunteer skier ambassador program is being considered. Skiers would wear specifically designed vests and would continue to educate walkers to stay off the ski trails. This program is being considered for the 2014-2015 ski season. If any one is interested in being a ski volunteer, let Barb Gorman know (gorbadd@charter.net). Skiers of all abilities and interest are able to enjoy well-maintained and well-groomed ski trails at Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar State Trail due to the appreciated and tremendous assistance, work, and support, by Calvin Kunkle, DNR property manager for the two ski areas. Thank you Calvin!

Webmaster Report**Joe Hagaman**

Check out the Friends website for more information about two of Dunn County's favorite recreational areas.. The website averages 200 to 300 unique visits per month. At this time of year the link to Ski Conditions will take you to "Skinny Ski" which gives cross-country ski conditions for the trail and for Hoffman Hills. Previous newsletters are also on the site.

Right in the Middle of Winter Events

Joan Friedenfels

The Greater Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center invite you to visit Menomonie and enjoy our events right in the middle of winter! For more information go to the Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center website: <http://www.menomoniechamber.org/> and click on our community calendar for contact info, times & locations of the winter events happening in Menomonie.

Just a sampling of the events you will find in Menomonie!

January 31st 2014.....Annual Candlelight Ski Event, Red Cedar State Trail
 February 1st 2014.....Mabel Tainter presents the Looney Lutheran's
 February 5th 2014.....GMACC 75th Annual Awards Banquet
 February 8th 2014.....Menomonie Polar Plunge
 February 8th 2014.....Fish & Game Annual Ice Fishing Contest
 February 21st 2014..... NAIFC Ice Fishing Free Seminar
 February 22nd 2014..... NAIFC Ice Fishing Free Kids Camp
 February 23rd 2014..... NAIFC Ice Fishing Contest
 February 23rd 2014.....Menomonie Wedding Fair, Vision Quest

Enjoy the Menomonie Events right in the middle of Winter!

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.

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

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.

**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 _____