

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 54 - Spring 2014

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NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - SATURDAY, JUNE 7

BIKE for FREE! FISH for FREE! (Of course, you can walk the trail for free any time!) Come and enjoy National Trails Day at the Red Cedar Trail, Depot Visitors' Center on Saturday, June 7th, from 10am to 2pm. The Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills have a great day planned.

There will be free fishing, with tackle and instruction provided, and prizes (!) throughout the event. Bicyclists can get a quick free tune-up and safety check from "Simple Sports." Free cookies and lemonade will be available for everyone all during the event, and the DNR will have a tent set up with activities and prizes for children and Trail information for adults.

At 10am, Jim Swanson will demonstrate what a voyageur from the 1700's needed to survive the weather and the rivers of Wisconsin.

The Raptor Center from the University of Minnesota will once again bring live eagles and other birds of prey, presenting information about these amazing birds from 11am to 1pm. Please do not bring dogs to the Depot during this time, as this can upset the birds!

New activity! Learn about geo-caching, with kits provided by the DNR, and local instructors. Fun for all ages!

The Depot will be staffed by the Chamber of Commerce, and ready to answer any questions about the area. You'll be able to pay your dues at our Friends of the Red Cedar/Hoffman Hills table, and tee shirts will be available for sale.

Join us to see what's happening on the Trail!

The festivities end at 2:00pm, but everyone is encouraged to walk, bike, and use the Red Cedar Trail and to enjoy the view out at Hoffman Hills.

Trail Manager's Report

Cal Kunkle

Spring started a little slowly in Wisconsin this year but is quickly gaining ground. The DNR staff has a lot of work again this year. Work will continue at Hoffman Hills to widen out trails for skiing, progress on the oak savanna, and updates to trail signage. I also have some staffing changes to report.

Folks may have noticed we did some culvert and ditching work near mile 1 ½ and 3 last year on the Red Cedar Trail. We will be doing some more south of Irvington again as we have to clean up two landslides and repair four additional culverts in that area. We did grade and roll the trail this spring. That really helped get rid of the ruts and foot prints that occurred during the spring thaw.

Hoffman Hills will see a variety of changes this year with trail work, new signage, and growth of the oak savanna. A timber sale will be conducted to remove hazard trees, regenerate oak/aspens forest stands, and to prepare for trail widening work sometime this summer. Most of the work so far has been focused on the center part of the property but we will be expanding trail work to the north and south this year. As we complete the trail renovations new signage is in the works to complement the trail changes. All the "You Are Here" signs that are in place at many of the trail intersections will be replaced with modern aluminum colored maps with corresponding intersection numbers. This will not only make the trails more user friendly but safer as it will provide an easier response system for emergency services. We also want to improve and expand upon the oak savanna that many people have worked diligently on. Watch for signs of the new prairie that our future 'Optimists' helped with as the prairie was planted by seeds they helped pick. Watch also for a new interpretive sign that will be placed to educate people on the oak savanna and prairie habitats.

Please say hi if you see our new visitor services staff Alicia Thompson. She will be working throughout the summer selling trail passes and answering visitor questions.

Hope to see you at National Trails Day on June 7. Thanks again to all our Friends and Volunteers and have a great biking season!

Treasurer's Report*Nancy Flyen*

Our 2014 year to date membership collections amount to \$505.00. We continue to split business collections between the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills. Year to date we have not received any business donations; therefore no money was transferred to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. We are expecting the 2013 Chamber money for trail pass sales and t-shirts to be submitted shortly. At Hoffman Hills, we have received donations specific to grooming in the amount of \$125, year to date.

As of March 31, 2014 we have an operating balance of \$1082.41 and a Hoffman Hills grooming balance of \$3,833.77. Additionally, the operating account balance includes memorial donations received from the family and friends of Marian Hoffman in the amount of \$775. The Hoffman Hills December balance of \$10,758.77 was reduced when a new groomer was purchased for Hoffman Hills from this fund. Total remaining dollars designated to Hoffman Hills are 3,833.77. The Grant account has a remaining balance of \$25.61 and our Burr Oak Savanna/Hoffman Hills account has a balance of \$1,124.88. 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*

It was a great winter for cross-country skiing. Both trails were kept in fantastic condition thanks to the DNR and the volunteer groomers. There was a short period of time, when the grooming equipment for both trails, was broken and being repaired. Once that hurdle was crossed, the trails were once again kept in perfect skiing condition. It was exciting this year to be able to purchase new grooming equipment. This purchase was made possible by the Hoffman Hills Foundation and the Community Foundation. Thank you to Calvin Kunkle, DNR property manager for the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills, Bill Butsic of the Hoffman Hills Foundation, Bill Kryshak, former FRCST/HH Board member, and Doug Voy, President of the FCSRT/HH, for making this purchase possible. The grooming equipment for Hoffman Hills is state of the art, and it shows in the excellent trail conditions. The groomers for the Red Cedar State Trail appreciated being able to "borrow" the Hoffman Hills grooming equipment, when the grooming equipment for the RCST broke. Perhaps in the near future, new grooming equipment can be found for the Red Cedar State Trail. Pictured below is the new tidd tech grooming equipment. Thank you again to all of the volunteer groomers; Bill Kryshak- huge amounts of hours on the Red Cedar State Trail, John Wesolek, David Gorman, Jim Tenorio (thank Jim for the snow under the bridges-much appreciated), Paul Sterk and son, Jerry Porter, John Hutchinson, Dan Gainey, and David Challe. And, thank you Calvin for all the work you put in to keep the two trails in excellent skiing condition.

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. Maps for road biking and mountain biking opportunities in the area can be found on the site. Previous newsletters dating back to 2005 are also on the site.

[HTTP://redcedarhoffman.org](http://redcedarhoffman.org)

North Star Bicycle Festival*Joan Friedenfels*

The North Star Bicycle Festival (formerly Nature Valley Grand Prix) returns to Menomonie for the 4th year on Saturday, June 14. Finishing with several circuits inside the city, the course will take in the challenging rural county roads outside the city that have been a favorite with cyclists of the upper Midwest for years. The men's road race consists of 101 miles, marked by rolling hills and long climbs that are sure to impact the standings for the entire North Star Grand Prix. Meanwhile, the women will cover a 76 mile course that follows the same beginning and ending roadways. The Menomonie Gran Fondo will offer supported rides for the avid cyclists. The Gran Fondo departs at 9:00am. The start of the pro men will be at Noon. Recreational cyclists can sign up for 15-mile or 35-mile Spectator Rides, which will take place during the pro races and will allow participants to ride ahead of the pros to Calvary Hill. This is a great opportunity to cheer on the pro men and to watch the race á bicyclette, as they say in Europe. Once the pros pass, the Spectator Rides continue along some of the most beautiful terrain in Dunn County. The 35-mile ride will include a trip to watch the pro men on the infamous Star Hill – a 17% grade for half a mile. Both Spectator Rides depart Menomonie at 11:15 am, and will return for the exhilarating finishing circuits in town.

Menomonie is also playing to lots of fun family activities, including amateur criterium racing in the early afternoon while the pros are out in the country. Families can enter kids age 12 and under in the FREE Kid's fun race. Stop downtown Menomonie for the food and expo downtown as well as SummerDaze activities that will also be taking place. Come for the races, stay for the fun! For the complete schedule of events log on to northstarbicyclefestival.com

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.

We are in special need of volunteers to work at the Depot for 3-hour shifts this summer. If you're interested in a regular shift or would just offer to be on a substitute list, please call Doug Voy at 715-309-9111 or dvoy@charter.net.

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.

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 and National Trails Day. As a reminder, dues can be paid by using the form on the last page of this newsletter and mailing to the address indicated.

If you're not sure if you and your family are current members for 2014, please contact Ellen Ochs at 715-235-0412 or ellenbochs@yahoo.com.

**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 2014 (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 _____