

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 61 - Fall 2017

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Annual Meeting - Thursday, Nov. 9

7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Leisure Services Center
1412 6th Menomonie

7:00 p.m. - Brief Annual Meeting

7:30 p.m. - **“On building civil society: Why improving water quality can change everything”**

Enjoy as UW-Stout Professor Nels Paulson shares his research on the environmental issues including phosphorus pollution in Wisconsin

Coffee, water, and snacks provided.

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills is interested in obtaining your favorite picture of either nature area. The pictures will be displayed at the depot (with credit given). Bring a photo and enjoy many more from our beautiful Red Cedar State Trail.

The seasons are a changing and for us, park staff are finishing projects as fast as we can before winter hits. The new drinking fountain install at Hoffman Hills has been completed, just in time for us to close it down for the season. The long wet summer delayed the project but we'll have it up and running next year. We got one of our bridges redecked and widened near Dunnville Wildlife Area. Hopefully we can continue to repair bridges and the trail tread on a continual basis and cut away at the deferred trail maintenance that's been building up. We still have one more project to complete this fall before the snow flies though. We have a contractor lined up to replace culverts and do ditching work near Irvington in the next couple of weeks. The trail will be closed for about a week if and when the project gets started.

Volunteers have been busy again on both properties. Bill Kryshak and Dave Gorman have been replacing rotten boards on the depot deck and ramp the last couple of weeks. Al Ebensberger is helping to replace the outside security lights on the depot to provide better lighting to the parking lot and replacing lights in the freight room. On October 13 students from Menomonie, volunteers from the Optimist Club and the Friends all came together to help on the oak savanna once again. The savanna restoration is in its 7th year now and the oaks are tall enough we pulled most of the tree shelters off the trees from the first and second planting. On October 20, students from Boyceville High School helped pick prairie seed to be planted in the oak savanna behind the maintenance shed. The students went above and beyond our expected goal and picked nearly 50 pounds of seed. That's comparable to nearly \$3,000 worth of seed picked in just a couple of hours. We'll be seeding the new site sometime early winter and will be looking for volunteers if anyone is interested.

A big thanks again to all the summer volunteers that staffed the Depot Visitor Center and a special thanks to Ellen! We had a great biking season but its time to look ahead for another great winter season. See you on the trails!

President's Report

Bill Kryshak

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable summer and that you had time to visit the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills - both were and are in wonderful shape. Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked at the Depot as you provided trail visitors the insight and direction which allowed the visitors to feel welcome and comfortable. It amazes me just how far people come from to enjoy our trails and this happens due to the great reputation that we have which is a true reflection of your wonderful help. Thank you also to everyone who volunteers out at Hoffman Hills as the efforts put in to maintain and improve the habitat is essential so the generations that follow us also get to enjoy this wonderful property. Hoffman Hills has become so much more "user friendly" over the years and we thank you for all of your help.

Our event for National Trails Day went well and I think Calvin had a record for the fishing part of the event. We spent much of the summer continuing to do our best in helping the DNR maintain and improve our properties.

The main purpose of the newsletter is to invite you to the annual meeting on November 9th. I know you will find our speaker, Nels Paulson, to be very engaging and extremely knowledgeable. Please come out and enjoy the evening with us.

Treasurer's Report

Deb Challe

Summer highlights / year-to-date totals:

- Individual and business memberships are at \$2,655.
- Donations stand at \$318.
- Gross revenue from trail pass sales totaled \$14,595. Of this total, 80% was submitted to the DNR and \$2919 (20%) stayed with the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail/Hoffman Hills.
- Merchandise sales totaled \$828.
- The portion of gross revenue from pass/merchandise sales generated by the Depot's new electronic sales system was \$2983. The expenses and fees for the new electronic sales system totaled \$177.

Summary of account balances:

Operating Cash:	\$5,058
Hoffman Hills Grooming Account:	\$5,334
Hoffman Hills Burr Oak Savanna Account:	\$861
Total Funds:	\$11,253

Important Dues Reminder for 2018

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. You can also go to the Friends website and join on-line with your debit card.

<http://redcedarhoffman.org/membership/>

**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



Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills

Join Today!

(or renew your membership)

Dues for 2018 (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"/> \$20 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Small Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Large Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sponsoring Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime | |

Special Contribution to the CC Ski Grooming Fund _____