

# Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter

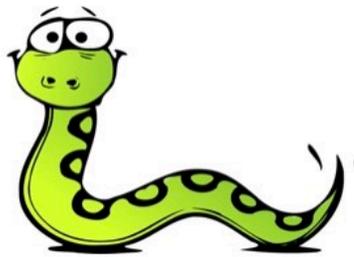


Number 63 - Spring 2018

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## Trails Day on Red Cedar Trail

**Saturday, June 2, 2018 at the Depot (10am to Noon)**  
**All activities are FREE**

### Special Event: Snake Discovery

### Board of Directors

Bill Kryshak, President  
Ellen Ochs, Vice-president  
and Membership  
Deb Challe, Treasurer  
Joe Hagaman, Webmaster  
and Newsletter Editor  
Vicki Ebersperger  
Jeanne Rothaupt  
Abraham Smith  
John Wesolek  
Deb Benoit  
Jane Redig

### DNR Representatives

Dave Hladilek  
Calvin Kunkle  
Penny Thiede-Klish

### Also:

- **Free fishing at Riverside Park (equipment provided)**
- **Mayo Clinic Health Systems bike safety (helmet safety demonstration)**
- **Free bike safety checks (by Simple Sports)**
- **DNR Booth inside the Depot**
- **Fun arts and crafts activity**
- **UW-Stout Equipment Rental Booth**

### Cookies and Lemonade

Early Bird Special at 9am: Yoga class in the park



Hi Folks, and welcome to summer! We'll just skip right over spring this year. We are off to a good start though and getting all the properties ready to go. Staff were able to grade and pack the Red Cedar Trail and it's in excellent shape. We are now focusing our efforts on routine summer property management. We were lucky that there was no flood damage to speak of this year, well at least so far, and there hasn't been any storm damage either. There are still a few culverts to replace and some ditching work to finish up on the Red Cedar Trail between mile 1 and 2. That work is expected to start sometime this summer and last about a week. The trail maybe closed temporarily for that work and we will have signs posted to the effect.

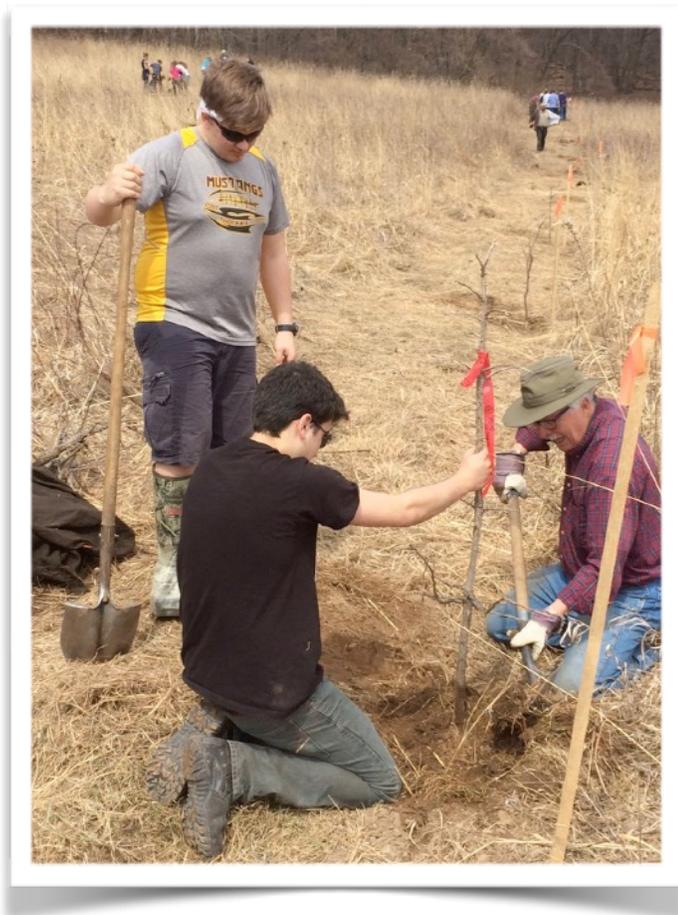
New this year is the DNR will be staffing the Depot Visitor Center on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday between Memorial and Labor Day. We hired on two great staff that have worked the visitor center in the past and will be able to jump right in. Please welcome Jana Reeg-Steidinger and Ian McKinnon when you stop by the visitor center during those days. As in the past we have a great group of volunteers that will be staffing the week days Monday-Thursday and they really deserve a big thank you for their generosity and time. Volunteers also assisted in our oak savanna restoration project at Hoffman Hills by planting 100 oak trees with the help of Friends members, Menomonie Optimists, 3M employees, and over 50 students from Menomonie. Our other spring volunteer event we held and the first ever Work\*Play\*Earth Day event we have had was held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. We had 12 volunteers show up with many of them being Friends members. We cleaned up and around the visitor center and took a whole truck load of stuff from out of the building giving us much needed room for storage. Again, the community support is instrumental in maintaining a high level of quality to our parks and it is always enjoyable to spend time with people passionate about these properties.

We have a lot of projects in the works with our partners so stay tuned and enjoy some time outdoors in our great parks!

**Volunteers from our first Work\*Play\*Earth Day event.**



## 2018 tree planting at Hoffman Hills



## **President's Report**

**Bill Kryshak**

I hope winter was good to you and that you are ready for another exciting summer of outdoor activities. I skipped mentioning spring as it appears like spring skipped us this year.

The Friends would like to thank you for your past support and hopefully we can count on you to continue supporting the organization by not only being a member but also by volunteering. We can always use your help when putting on some of our annual events such as National Trails Day in June and the Candlelight Ski in January. Both events turned out great as the weather was just about perfect for Trails Day last June and the snow and temperature cooperated enough to make for a beautiful night for the Candlelight Ski. It was ironic that until just a few weeks ago the high temperature for 2018 was 47 degrees which happened January 26<sup>th</sup> which was the day of the Candlelight Ski.

This summer volunteers are ready to greet and help visitors as they walk into the Depot and we thank all of you who help us with that. It was a wonderful winter of skiing at Hoffman Hills and Calvin has it ready for the summer visitors. There are many projects planned for the summer so we encourage you to visit and see for yourself the improvements being made to both properties. Our financial support along with the physical labor of many of our members in partnership with other local organizations has allowed both trails to continue to grow and flourish.

We ask for your support in being a member and also in volunteering - we do make a difference.

Happy summer and enjoy our wonderful resources.

## **Vice-President's Report**

**Ellen Ochs**

### **New plans for this summer at the Trail Depot**

The Friends of the Red Cedar Trail have a new partner helping to staff the Depot this summer: our local DNR office. The Chamber of Commerce Tourism board has had to pull back from supporting the Trail with staff hours, but fortunately Penny Thiede-Klish (DNR Visitor services) and Ranger/Property Manager Cal Kunkle have been able to fund staff for the weekends, and we are getting set up to operate more like Lake Wissota. The Friends will still organize volunteers to keep the Depot open weekdays, and the DNR will do so Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The advantage of such a partner is that while we have great volunteers, most of them have other claims on their weekends in the summer! Of course, when we staff the Depot, we get a percentage of the trail passes we sell. When the DNR staffs, the DNR gets 100% of the pass sales. (T-shirt sales are still ours.) But it all goes to support the most beautiful bike trail in Wisconsin, so who can complain?

We'll be open Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend - come on down to bike the trail, to see some new displays, and to ask about an exciting butterfly project that Penny will be working on! And remember, new volunteers are always welcome!

## Treasurer's Report

Deb Challe

The success of this year's business membership drive was reflected in a substantial increase in contributions. As of May 20, 2017 our receipts for business memberships and donations totaled \$1900, compared to \$200 last year at this time. Half of that total is diverted from the general fund to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. Individual memberships are down, however, with \$610 collected so far -- approximately \$400 short of last year's receipts at this date. Individual donations offered in addition to membership were \$153 to the general fund and \$110 to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. Thank you, generous members! Our general operating balance is currently \$2430.56 and the Hoffman Hills Grooming balance is \$5258.87, for a total operating balance of \$7689.43.

Our 2014 Stewardship Grant -- a matching grant with the DNR -- has already provided funding for striping the Depot parking lot, remodeling the inside of the building, and purchasing a new sandwich board for event information. In April of 2017 the balance of the funds were used to replace the Depot door. Now that payments for all jobs have been submitted we will be closing this grant, resulting in reimbursement of \$1080 for expenses. This will raise our total operating balance to \$8769.43.

The Bike Station Grant was also closed recently. \$1215 of this \$1250 grant went toward the two bike pump stations, and the remaining \$35 was applied to the cost of signs recognizing the Rotary Club as the grant provider.

Continued support of the Hoffman Hills Oak Savannah will be provided by the Oak Savannah account, which has a balance of \$1663.85. This amount, combined with our total operating balance and anticipated Stewardship Grant reimbursement, gives us approximately \$10423 in total funds available.

## Web/Facebook 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 and our Facebook page has 355 "Likes", up by 60 over the previous year. Previous newsletters are also on the site and a listing of all the board members.

**Friends website:** [redcedarhoffman.org](http://redcedarhoffman.org)

**Friends Facebook Page:** search for Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills and click the "LIKE" button.

You can now buy Wisconsin State Trail Passes online through the Friends!  
Get ready to for your adventures on the state trail system!

No need to fuss with the little envelopes and the metal box.  
Check out the "Shop" button on our Facebook page,  
or go straight to

<https://squareup.com/store/red-cedar-trail-and-hoffman-hills>

You can also scan this code to go there right now, and

Trail passes will be mailed from Menomonie as soon as the  
order comes in."

**Chippewa Valley Nature Festival Jun 1, 2018 - Jun 3, 2018**

Chippewa Valley Nature Festival is a weekend celebration of the unique animals, birds, insects, plants, and places throughout the Chippewa Valley. It begins Friday with the MN Zoomobile and ends Sunday with an open-air train ride through the Tiffany Bottoms. The festival includes speakers, presentations and field trips by foot or canoe/kayak. Meet birds from the Raptor Education Center. Explore 70 feet below the ground - tour Crystal Cave and learn about the environs of bats. Registration in advance for field trips is encouraged due to limited space available.

<http://www.chippewavalleynaturefestival.com>

**Around the Corner - Menomonie**

Did you miss the latest "Around the Corner" program on Wisconsin Public Television? It was on Menomonie and worth watching even though there was very little about the Red Cedar Trail.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeDmWRQqIAk>

## **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



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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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  |  |

**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 \_\_\_\_\_**