

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 64 - Fall 2018

In This Issue

Annual Meeting	1
Trail Manager's Report	2
President's Report	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Vice President's Report	4
Dues Reminder	4
Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan	5
Take a Selfie	6

Board of Directors

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

DNR Representatives

Dave Hladilek
Calvin Kunkle
Penny Thiede-Klish

Website:

redcedarhoffman.org

Annual Meeting - Tuesday, Nov. 13

6:30 -8:00 p.m. at the **Raw Deal**
603 Broadway St. S
Menomonie, WI

6:30 p.m. - Brief Annual Meeting

7:00 p.m. - **"What Is Killing Honey Bees?"**



Enjoy as UW-Stout Professor Jim Burritt shares his research into this mystery.

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.

We have a lot going on and a lot of accomplishments to report on this year, as well as planning for some future projects. We have had numerous volunteer work days at both properties. This fall we planted 23 oak trees at Hoffman Hills with help from the Friends, the Optimist Club, Menomonie High School, and Covia (previously Fairmont Minerals) who donated the trees for the project. We have had a very active group of volunteers helping to remove invasive plants between the depot and Riverside park. The Menomonie Chamber of Commerce has helped pick up garbage, done some brush control around the Depot, and removed/replaced mulch beds around the Depot as well. The DNR has a couple projects going as well. A contractor will be replacing culverts and doing some ditching work between mile 1 and 2 the first week of November. There will be some temporary closures as this work is done for a couple days. The DNR is working on a timber sale at Hoffman Hills that will occur in 2019-2020. With the help of some volunteer skiers we marked out new trail reroutes up to the tower, the Squirrel Tail Trails, and a part of the Skyline Trail that leads down to the main parking lot. This will help to finish our trail revamp project to widen trails and make them more sustainable as well as safer to ski on.

Besides the future trail work at Hoffman to look forward to we have multiple projects in the works. I talked to the owner of Lucette Brewing about adding security lighting between the Red Cedar Trail and the brewery and he was very receptive to that project. I will be contacting Xcel Energy to add lighting around the Depot this fall on existing utility poles. We have some progress on a proposed warming shelter at Hoffman Hills as Cedar Corporation has graciously accepted to donate time on creating a preliminary design for that building. We also expect to get some new snow grooming equipment for the Red Cedar Trail for this ski season. Progress is being made on the Friend's enhancement project to add a new entrance sign on the Red Cedar Trail, kiosks at Hoffman, and new orientation signs at both properties. We should start seeing these new developments getting installed next spring.

Thanks to all who have contributed time at the Depot this summer and to all our other volunteers. It's a pleasure to work with all of you.

By the way, congrats to Barb Gorman for receiving the Hero Award from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks! It really says a lot about this Friends Group and to Barb's dedication to our properties. Enjoy the fall and the upcoming winter season.

President's Report

Bill Kryshak

I hope everyone had a good summer and that you had a chance to visit the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills Recreation Area. Both properties are in great shape and seemed to stay very busy this summer. Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked at the Depot providing trail visitors the insight and direction that allows them to feel welcome and comfortable while using the trail. We have visitors from throughout the country enjoying our trails and this happens based on the great reputation that we have which is a true reflection of the wonderful job that you do. Thank you also to everyone who volunteers out at Hoffman Hills as the efforts put in to maintain and improve the habitat is so important for us to continue to allow users to enjoy this wonderful property.

Our event for National Trails Day went very well as the reptiles exhibit, fishing and the other activities were all a hit. Check out these [pictures on our website](#). We spent much of the summer continuing to do our best in helping the DNR maintain and improve our properties. We were lucky enough to receive grants for numerous projects including a \$2,000 grant from Walmart that will be used for new ski grooming equipment for the Red Cedar State Trail, a \$5,000 grant from Conagra that will be used for biking friendly water dispensers located at the Depot and in Downsville and finally a grant thru the DNR with matching funds provided by the Hoffman Foundation account within the Community Foundation of Dunn County and the FRCST. This grant will be used for new signage at both properties and kiosks for Hoffman Hills.

The main purpose of the newsletter is to invite you to the annual meeting on November 13th. Jim Burritt, our speaker, is extremely knowledgeable, engaging and just a really nice person who I think you will be very educational. 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 \$2460.
- Donations stand at \$639.
- Gross revenue from trail pass sales totaled \$4,585. Of this total, 80% was submitted to the DNR and \$917 (20%) stayed with the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail/Hoffman Hills.
- Merchandise sales totaled \$650.
- We received the following grants this year:
 - DNR Incentive Grant..... \$125
 - Friends of Wisconsin State Trails Grant..... \$100
 - WalMart Grant..... \$2000
 - Conagra Brands Grant.....\$5000

Summary of account balances:

Operating Cash:	\$6,475
Hoffman Hills Grooming Account:	\$8,534
Conagra Brands Grant Account:	\$5,000
Total Funds:	\$20,009

Summer at the Depot, Volunteer Jamboree at Lake Wissota , State Officials tour our Red Cedar State Trail & respond enthusiastically!

Another good year at our Trail Head Depot! Changes this year: a secure keybox, (very convenient!) and DNR employees rather than Chamber of Commerce employees staffing weekends - including Fridays. We still rely on our valuable volunteers Monday through Thursday, and are more comfortable now with accepting credit & debit cards on the Square device. We added ice cream sandwiches & freezie pops to our inventory, which went over well. We topped the summer off with our volunteer picnic in early September, closely followed by the Wisconsin State Park System's Volunteer Jamboree at Lake Wissota the weekend of September 10th. Fred & I, and two of our Depot Volunteers were able to take advantage of this event being so close by, & the lovely weather! Being a Depot Volunteer is a fun gig - if you are interested for 2019, contact me at ellenbochs@yahoo.com. We have a training in May.

Recently we had a visitor event: on October 30, Tourism Secretary Stephanie Klett, Deputy Secretary Sarah Klavas, and Assemblyman Rob Stafsholt from District 29 came to take a bike tour of the Depot-Irvington section of our Trail, along with a Trek Bike representative who supplied 10 bikes, helmets and running lights for the party and some of us. We plied them with coffee, cider, cookies & directions, and pointed out the weeping wall, the eagle nest with occupant, and the new selfie stand. Have you tried it? That was a hit, and so was the eagle fly-by that happened on cue! Our visitors were impressed by the beauty of our Trail and our supportive community - and that's good! Ideas were flying thick and fast.

Important Dues Reminder for 2019

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.

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

Dunn County Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Dunn County will hold an open house to gather feedback on the Draft Dunn County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The open house is on **Monday, November 12th at the Dunn County Community Services Building, Room 54 at 3001 U.S. Hwy 12 East in Menomonie, Wisconsin from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m., with a short presentation at 5:00 p.m.** Staff from the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, along with members of the county advisory team, will be present to answer questions and listen to feedback. A previous open house, in fall of 2017, focused on gathering public input for the development of the plan, this second open house is a chance to review the draft plan and make comment before it is finalized.

The bicycle and pedestrian plan focuses on creating bicycle and pedestrian opportunities throughout the county as well as creating connections with surrounding counties. The Dunn County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan has been overseen by a county advisory team and coordinated with the ongoing bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts in Chippewa and Eau Claire counties. Collaboration and coordination between citizens, advocacy groups, local governments, and the County has been critical to the planning process and will continue through to plan adoption and implementation.

The Dunn County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan features a countywide bicycle route network that was developed under state and federal guidelines, with public and user input, and extensive fieldwork. This network connects to routes identified in the adopted St. Croix County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the draft Chippewa and Eau Claire county plans to create the Western Wisconsin Bicycle Routes Network Plan.

This planning project was funded by a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The application was submitted to fund the creation of three coordinated bike and pedestrian plans in Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties. This highly competitive program provides up to an 80% grant with a 20% local match. The local match for the Dunn plan portion of the planning effort was funded by the County.

The completion of this comprehensive bike and pedestrian plan will provide the County with the necessary tools and guidelines to implement priority bicycle and pedestrian policies and projects, and will assist in applying for state and federal funding to develop connections and improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the County.

This bike and pedestrian plan is anticipated to be completed in late November 2018. For more information regarding this project go to the project website at 3countybikeandped.wordpress.com.

Information is also available by contacting Ann Schell, Senior Transportation Planner, or Megan Olson, Associate Planner at the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission at 715-836-2918.

Share Your Selfie

Get your perfect selfie on the Red Cedar State Trail near Mile Marker 2! Pictured are Menomonie DNR installing and testing the new attraction. Travel Wisconsin and Wisconsin State Parks teamed up to install selfie stands in several state parks and trails. Share your photo using #ScenicWisconsin or upload to TravelWisconsin.com where you can also see how other visitors are already using the stands.



**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 2019 (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 _____