

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 66 - Spring 2019

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Trails Day on Red Cedar Trail

Saturday, June 1, 2019 at the Depot (824 Hudson Rd.)
(10am to Noon)

All activities are FREE

Special Event: Snake Discovery

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 activities
- Big Bubbles
- UW-Stout Equipment Rental Booth

Cookies and Lemonade

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

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

Hello fellow trail users and to a new season! We have a lot of projects on both properties we are planning for the 2019 season. We have a new entrance sign, orientation signs, kiosks, drinking fountains, trail repairs, and grassland habitat work besides our routine work we have on the docket. Last year we replaced multiple wood and steel culverts on the Red Cedar Trail. This year we will continue to improve water flow under the trail compared to over the trail by cleaning out ditches around those new culverts. We did have one major landslide near mile 12 that got repaired as well as multiple smaller landslides. These slides will also get removed within May and June to alleviate some of the muddy spots on the trail. The good news is that the trails are finally open and are in good condition.

Other good news is as part of the State Parks and Friends Enhancement Project Initiate the Red Cedar Trail will get a new entrance sign at the Depot. We will have 2 new orientation signs on both the Red Cedar and at Hoffman Hills. We will also install 2 new kiosks at Hoffman Hills. We expect to have all the enhancement projects done by June. Expect also to see new drinking fountains installed in the Depot and at Downsville with help from the Friends that received a community grant from Conagra in 2018.

As well as the enhancement projects we are also looking to improve our trails and native habitats at Hoffman Hills. Last year DNR staff met with multiple trail users to mark out a few new reroutes to improve trail sustainability as well as improving the quality of our trails. You may see quite a few trees marked with red or orange paint going up to the tower and around the south trail as well as within the pine plantations. The trees marked up around the tower will be removed as part of a project to create an access for heavy equipment to get to the tower for future repairs. This is still in the planning phase and we are hoping to save as many trees as we can depending on the size of equipment needed for the tower repairs.



The trees marked along the Squirrel Tail trails will be removed to improve the trails to be more sustainable and safer for cross country skiing. We don't expect the tree removal or trail work around the tower to occur this year, but we are looking for additional feedback from our trail user. This year will give us time to work with contractors to firm up plans for equipment access and we'll have a better idea of how many trees we will need to remove. There will be some forestry work occur this year though within the pine plantations as part improving those stands. We are also planning to improve the prairie area and the wetland areas by removing brush and trees. This will include removing all the trees from around the entrance of the park and north and

west of the park road north to the oak savanna. Our counterparts within the wildlife program are coordinating the habitat work with a whole tree chipping operation that will haul the chips to a biofuel plant. This work is expected to occur within May and June so some trails around the ponds and oak savanna maybe closed while the equipment is operating. This work will really open up the prairie and wetland areas to improve the oak savanna and our grass land habitats. This will continue the work we've done over the course of the last 9 years with the tree plantings, tree shelter maintenance, and brush control. This year on April 26 we had 2 school groups and help from Optimist members and Friends members work on tree shelter maintenance as well as do a spring clean up of the park. We couldn't do all this work without the Friends or our community volunteers. A big thanks goes to all our volunteers, we couldn't do it without you.



Spring wildflowers are really blooming along the trails and still no bugs! At least not yet. Get out and enjoy the trails before they do. If you haven't been to Hoffman Hills lately there is a pair of beavers that moved into the west pond. They built their lodge right next to the bench!

President's Report

Bill Kryshak

Wow what a winter we had. It is quite ironic that we had a record snowfall however we had to cancel the Candlelight Ski due to a lack of snow. As we have learned in our years of living in Wisconsin the only thing we can do is move on and look forward to the next season.

The Friends would like to once again thank you for your past support and hopefully we can count on you to continue supporting the organization with your membership along with some volunteering if possible. 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 next January. Our 2018 Trails Day was very successful and we are looking forward to the upcoming 2019 event on June 1st.

It was a short winter of skiing at Hoffman Hills and on the Red Cedar and we want to thank the groomers for all of their work. It took days to get the trail ready after each snowfall due to the heavy amount of snow each snowfall brought and the hours spent were very much appreciated by skiers. 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. There are many projects planned for the summer at both properties so we encourage you to visit and see the improvements being made. 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. A special thanks goes to Calvin as we are very lucky to have him as our trail manager. Calvin's abilities allow the two properties to continue to improve which is remarkable when we consider the current budget he has to work with and the constant push for the properties to be more self-supporting.

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

Happy summer and enjoy our two beautiful properties.

Vice-President's Report

Ellen Ochs

This summer at the Red Cedar Trail Depot - Come see us!

We have a full team of Depot volunteers this year, and enough substitutes too! Volunteers keep the Depot open on weekdays (Monday to Thursday) from 10 to 4pm, from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend. (The DNR staffs the Depot on weekends.) We sell Trail Passes, both Daily and Annual, plus Friends T-shirts & some souvenirs. This will be our third year using "Square" to accept credit card purchases. Our volunteers adjusted to this technology somewhat reluctantly, but they admit we need it. But they say that sometimes the whole shift goes by with no one to talk to. So come visit them to keep them happy! Bring the kids! Fill your water bottles, check the air in your bike tires, ask about trail conditions, see the new displays, and have a terrific Trail summer!

Treasurer's Report

Deb Challe

The Friends offer a sincere thank you to the various contributors who help fund the events and projects on the Red Cedar Trail and at Hoffman Hills. We're happy to see new names in all donation categories this year: business memberships, individual memberships and grants. As of May 14, 2019 we've received \$1650 from business memberships -- a 27% increase from last year. The \$195 in individual membership revenue, however, is less than half of last May's total. The decline may be related to the cancellation of the Candlelight Ski, an event that serves to introduce folks to our group and promotes membership. Hopefully the biking/hiking season will usher in a renewed interest in joining our cause!

Our main expenses in 2019 have been T-shirts to sell at the depot (\$399.48), supplies for the Candlelight Ski (\$262.77), insurance (\$351), and a donation toward the purchase of grooming equipment (\$1743). Our general operating balance is currently \$6598.38, the Hoffman Hills & Red Cedar Grooming balance is \$4433.87, and we have \$5000 in the Conagra Brands Grant for total available funds of \$16,032.25.

Watch for new clothing and other merchandise for sale at the depot along with daily and annual passes. And, as always, thanks for your interest and your generous support!

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 484 "Likes", up by 100 over the previous year. Previous newsletters are also on the site and a listing of all the board members.

Friends website: redcedarhoffman.org

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

For additional fun on Trails Day weekend consider the:

Chippewa Valley Nature Festival

Three County Bike/Pedestrian Planning

The counties of Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire have developed a plan for the future of bicycle and pedestrian transportation. The individual county bicycle and pedestrian plans focus on creating a greater array of transportation options while promoting connectivity, safety, health, economic and tourism opportunities within and beyond each county. This planning process was used to identify priority bicycle and pedestrian enhancements for the upcoming years in each of the counties.

The Three County website can be found [HERE](#).

The Dunn County draft document can be found [HERE](#).

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.

You can also buy WI Trail Passes and make donations online!
<https://squareup.com/store/red-cedar-trail-and-hoffman-hills/>

**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 _____