

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



Number 67 - Fall 2019

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## Board of Directors

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## DNR Representatives

Dave Hladilek  
Calvin Kunkle  
Penny Thiede-Klish

## Website:

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

## Annual Meeting - Monday, Nov. 11

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. - **The Importance of Old-Growth Forests as  
Ecological Baselines in a Human-Dominated World**



Enjoy as UW-Stout Lecturer Julia Chapman, Biology Department, shares her research,

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.

Hi Folks, and welcome to another wonderful Fall in Wisconsin! Fall colors were fantastic, while they lasted... which was about a week. Just like the Spring wildflowers, enjoy them while you can! Things certainly do change fast, and it feels like Summer just blew by. It was a busy summer and we did get quite a few projects done.

This Summer started out stormy just like how this Fall is starting. We spent most of June and July clearing downed trees and cleaning up landslides. The Summer has been so hectic that we just recently had a chance to fix washouts at Hoffman Hills that occurred this Spring. Also, this Fall we built a new handicap accessible trail to the drinking fountain at Hoffman Hills. We also had a culvert replaced on the Red Cedar Trail that went bad this Spring near mile 2. Slowly but surely, we're making repairs to the properties.

There were a few setbacks with some of our projects we had planned on this year. The timber sale for the pine thinning at Hoffman Hills did not sell this Spring and will be rebid this Fall. There was also some habitat work planned around the prairie at Hoffman but that got postponed due to the wet weather. We are hoping to clear out some of that brush that's invading the prairie and open it back up in the future. This will be complimentary to the oak savanna work that we've done in the past. We are working with the Menomonie School District to do a prairie seeding this Fall or early Winter to plant around the oak savanna remnant area near the maintenance shop. We are continuing to plan for the equipment access trail to the observation tower and to work on the ridge top trails. Some of the enhancement grant components did get completed such as the entrance sign at the Red Cedar Trail but the orientation signs and kiosks will not be completed till early 2020.

As with the end of one season, another season starts. Now that biking season is over I want to thank all our summer volunteers that helped at the depot or worked on the trails. We certainly couldn't do it all without you. Now, we are looking forward to ski season and working with our volunteer groomers. This year will a bit different. I recently accepted a park manager position working mainly out of Lake Wissota State Park starting on November 11. I'll certainly miss the trails and working with our great volunteers and the Friends Group. I'm sure I'll still help occasionally when there's storm damage to cleanup and as needed but I'll be focusing on transitioning to that position this Winter. I want to thank you all for the support I have received while working here and am confident these properties will remain a treasure for the community to enjoy in the future.

Park staff are working on a transition plan to cover issues on the Trails and at Hoffman. Until November 11, I can still be reached at the main trail park office number of 715-232-1242.

With the rain and leaves falling it appears that summer has come to an end and I hope you had an enjoyable one. If you have had a chance to visit the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills Recreation Area you will see that both properties are in great shape and were very busy this summer. I would like to thank 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. Based on the license plates in the parking lot I know we had visitors from throughout the country enjoying our trails and this is a true reflection of the wonderful job that you do. Thank you also to everyone who volunteers at Hoffman Hills as the efforts put in to maintain and improve the habitat are critical for us to continue to allow users to enjoy this wonderful property. National Trails Day went very well as the reptile exhibit, fishing and the other activities were once again all a big hit. Check out the pictures on our website as based on the smiles on the kid's faces it kind of tells it all as far as to the success of that day.

It was exciting for us to get the water dispensers installed in the Depot and in Downsville and based on the number of people who filled water bottles both were welcomed. We thank Conagra for the wonderful donation. You will also see new signage at both properties, and this is thanks to a DNR grant with matching funds provided by the Hoffman Foundation account within the Community Foundation of Dunn County and the FRCST. I also want to thank the businesses who have provided us with donations and memberships – our giving tree is very impressive thanks to your generous gifts.

The main purpose of the newsletter is to invite you to the annual meeting on November 11th. Julia Chapman, our speaker, is a member of the Biology Department at UW-Stout and has a research interest in old growth forest ecology. Please come out to the Raw Deal and enjoy the evening with us.



Conagra representatives Maria Peers and Mike Sabelko in front of one of two water dispensers that were purchased by the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills with a grant received from Conagra.

## Treasurer's Report

Deb Challe

### Summer highlights / year-to-date totals:

- Gross revenue from trail pass sales was \$4,860. Of this total, 80% was submitted to the DNR and \$972 (20%) stayed with the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail/Hoffman Hills.
- Merchandise sales at the Depot totaled \$906.05.
- Combined income for pass and merchandise sales was up 24% from last summer.
- Individual and business memberships are at \$2545.
- Donations stand at \$320.
- We received a grant from Friends of Wisconsin State Trails for \$125.
- The Conagra Brands Grant account was closed after applying the entire \$5000 balance toward the purchase of the drinking/water bottle stations at Downsville and the Depot.

### Summary of account balances:

Operating Cash:	\$8116.79
Hoffman Hills Grooming Account:	\$3015.87
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>\$11,132.66</b>

## Vice President's Report

Ellen Ochs

We had a very successful summer season at the Depot Trail Head, with great volunteers, good trail pass sales, and a fun Volunteer Recognition Picnic in September. We recruit and train volunteers to staff the Depot on weekdays (Mondays through Thursdays) from Memorial Day to Labor Day (The DNR staffs the weekends). New volunteers are always welcome! Three hour shifts – contact ellenbochs@yahoo.com

We have enjoyed several upgrades this year:

- the new water dispensers that President Bill mentioned at the Depot and at Downsville,
- better outdoor lighting at the Depot for those fall bike rides coming back to a dusky parking lot,
- a handsome new sign to attract attention, and
- the donation of a bike repair stand from Simple Sports that can be loaned to a trail user in bicycle difficulties! (and yes, we also have some basic tools.)

We love to see people enjoying the Trail! Come on down!



## **Congratulations from the Board:**

**Thank-you for your many years of service. I still remember the first meeting of the Friends you attended. We were so happy to get your support and leadership. You have done a fantastic job and we will miss you.**

**Congratulations** on the promotion and it is well deserved. You can be very happy and proud as you are leaving both properties better then when you came and that is quite a compliment as they were doing well when you got here. It has been a pleasure to work with you and to have you as part of our group.

**Congratulations**, Cal, very good news for you! We will try to console ourselves by remembering you are not far away, but it will be hard! It has been great working with you, and whoever tries to take your place will have his/her work cut out for him/her.

**Congratulations** on your new position Calvin! We will miss all of your wonderful trail and Hoffman Hills updates.

**Congratulations** Calvin. Of course I am sad for us but very happy for you. You have been wonderful to work with. I'm glad you will not be too far away



## Goodbye to Fall



## Important Dues Reminder for 2020

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/>

**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**



## Join Today!

(or renew your membership)  
Dues for 2020 (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 \_\_\_\_\_**