

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 72 - Spring 2022

In This Issue

Trails Day	1
Trail Manager's Report	2
President's Report	3
Vice President's Report	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Web/Facebook Report	5
Dues Reminder	5

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Website:

redcedarhoffman.org



REPTILES!



Snake Discovery educational program returns!



activities

Come and celebrate
National Trails Day
 at the
Red Cedar State Trail

Saturday, June 4, 2022
10:00 - 12:00

*** Snake Discovery at 10:15 ***

Depot Visitor Center
824 Hudson Road

FREE fun for all!

Sponsored by
 Friends of Red Cedar State Trail
<https://redcedarhoffman.org/>

Bookmobile
 courtesy of
 Menomonie
 Public Library



FREE
mini bike tune-up

 courtesy of
 Simple Sports



fishing



In case of Rain, Snake Discovery will be at the Menomonie Library.

Hello Friends,

It's been a rollercoaster of a spring so far. First it didn't seem like winter was willing to leave, then we hit 90° temps, then the spring storms began. Thankfully, we didn't have much flood damage and only a few minor landslides near mile 1 and 3. Of course it has been an active spring weather season with plenty of storms. There was a tornado that went just south of Hoffman Hills that blew down about a dozen large trees along the trails. Maintenance staff have spent a few days clearing trees between all the properties now. Now that the storm damage has been cleaned up, we're now trying to catch back up on the normal maintenance work including mowing/trimming, tread repairs, bridge repairs, etc... Good news is all the facilities are back open this year including the Depot Visitor Center with help from our many volunteers.

Our volunteers have been out in full force already helping with spring cleanup and maintenance work. There were two groups of Menomonie school students at Hoffman this spring. The middle school helped to clear trails and pick up garbage for Earth Day. We had the high school helping with the oak savanna project by repairing, replacing, and removing tree shelters. I really must thank the Optimist Club and in particular Dennis Spader for lining up the bus transport and providing food to the students for the high school workday. There were many other volunteers helping those days as well and I appreciate all of the folks that have helped out. I also want to thank the folks from Andersen Logistics, which is one our Adopt A Trail groups, that spent a day pulling garlic mustard from Irvington to Downsville. It's been a great community effort to get these properties ready for the summer season. Thanks so much to all of you and here's to another great summer season! Enjoy the trails.

As I write this the sun is out, it is almost 70 degrees, and the birds are singing loudly – spring has finally arrived. I hope with this change in the weather you can get out and enjoy our two wonderful properties along with all the other great outdoor opportunities we have in our community. I want to thank all of you for your continued support of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills Recreation Area while updating you on some of the things that have happened since our last correspondence in January.

We had a successful ski season that included the return of our annual Candlelight Ski after a year's interruption due to covid. The weather cooperated, if you are a winter outdoor enthusiast, with temperatures in the low teens and light winds. Volunteers greeted over 400 visitors to the trail that evening who enjoyed skiing, snowshoes and walking on the candlelit trails, ending their night with a cup of hot chocolate provided by Conagra. Thanks go to all who help make this event a success.

Last fall we took on a project that we had not previously embarked on quite to this level and that was raising money for a new snowmobile to groom the Red Cedar. The support we received from Chippewa Valley skiers was incredible and due to that support along with the memberships from our local businesses and a few grants we raised the necessary funds to purchase a new Ski Doo Expedition snowmobile that should arrive in time for the 2022-2023 season. I will let you look at the pictures below to determine whether you can pick out the new versus the old. To say the groomers are excited is an understatement and we thank you again for your tremendous support.



Getting back a bit to what we once considered normal, we will be holding our annual National Trails Day event from 10:00 to noon on Saturday June 4th so hopefully you can attend as it is meant to be very child friendly. As will be noted in other spots in the newsletter, the Depot will be staffed throughout the summer to help visitors enjoy the trail and get information on our community.

We will continue to do whatever we can to support our wonderful properties, making them as user friendly as we can. Again, thank you for your support and have a great summer.

Good news! Our volunteers will be back at the reopened Trail Depot this summer, starting June 7th, to sell trail passes & tee shirts, and give out helpful information. It's been a long time, but we think we still know how! We'll be responsible for staffing 3 days a week, Tuesday through Thursday, keeping the Depot open from 10am to 4 pm (two shifts per day.) DNR will staff the weekends. It will be great to be able to see a friendly face at the trailhead – come by and say hi! And if you'd like to help out as an occasional substitute, contact Ellen Ochs (ellenbochs@yahoo.com or 715-235-0412

Treasurer's Report**Deb Challe**

It's been a busy year for the Friends of Red Cedar books! The most exciting news involves meeting the goal for the purchase of a new snowmobile to be delivered later this year. Thanks to many generous donations from individuals and businesses alike, our Grooming Equipment Account balance stands at \$16,539, which just covers the cost of the snowmobile we have on order:

NextGen Powersports invoice:	\$17,026
<u>Downpayment made:</u>	<u>- \$500</u>
Balance due:	\$16,526

In addition to contributions toward snowmobile purchase, we're off to a good start with general memberships. Individual memberships to date total \$320 (up 27% from this time last year) and business memberships so far total \$1,750.

Trail pass sales are down slightly this year, although the late spring may have kept folks off the trails longer than usual. We've taken in \$1,325 so far between online sales and purchases made at the Chamber of Commerce office. Although 80% of that amount is submitted to the DNR, the remainder (\$265) goes directly to our organization -- a reminder of the value of buying your passes through the Friends of Red Cedar!

Summary of account balances:

Operating Cash:	\$10,872
Hoffman/Red Cedar Grooming:	\$2,721
Grooming Equipment Fund:	\$16,539
Total funds:	\$30,132

Thanks for your financial support!

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 881 "Likes", up by almost 200 over the previous year. Previous newsletters are also on the site and a listing of all the board members.

Friends website: <https://redcedarhoffman.org/>

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

Important Dues Reminder for 2022

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 2022 (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 | |

Special Contribution to the CC Ski Grooming Fund _____

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**