

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



Number 73 - Winter 2023

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## In This Issue

Candlelight Ski	1
Trail Manager's Report	2
President's Report	2
Vice President's Report	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Web/Facebook Report	5
Monarch Info	5
Dues Reminder	6

## 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  
Deb Benoit  
Jane Redig

## DNR Representatives

Dave Hladilek  
Calvin Kunkle  
Penny Thiede-Klish

## Website:

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



FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2023  
6 to 9 PM at the Depot

- Ski the Red Cedar Trail and see the ice wall
- Walk the Junction trail
- Snowshoe at Riverside Park

Ski rentals available in advance from Stout Adventures.  
Snowshoes provided free at the event by Mayo Clinic Health System.

After skiing, walking or snowshoeing, warm up with a cup of Swiss Miss hot chocolate provided by Conagra and cookies provided by Kwik Trip around a glowing bonfire. **It's a fun time for the whole family to experience the joys of winter.**

Event sponsored by the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills, Wisconsin DNR, ConAgra, and Mayo Clinic Health System.

Website: [redcedarhoffman.org](http://redcedarhoffman.org)  
or call 715-232-1242

## **Trail Manager's Report**

**Cal Kunkle**

Hello Friends,

Happy New Year! Hope all is well, and folks have been able to cleanup from all the heavy, wet, snow we've had.

This winter has already challenged us for the ski trails and our volunteer groomers. We got walloped by multiple storms around Christmas and are still cleaning up. Fortunately, our A-Team trail groomers Bill Kryshak and Dave Gorman cleared the Red Cedar Trail and have been able to keep up on the grooming. Hoffman Hills is another matter entirely. Unfortunately, the tracked gator that is used for grooming is currently inoperable and is still in the shop for repairs. A special thank you to the Challe Family. They have been especially helpful in working on clearing storm damage by hand. There is still plenty of downed trees on the trails to cleanup still. Once the gator gets repaired we will start working on clearing everything.

Some good news, with the help of the Friends and community donations, a new snowmobile will soon be arriving. This will replace our very out of date 1994 Ski Doo Alpine that is used for grooming the Red Cedar Trail. This will be a very welcomed piece of equipment. Thanks to all who helped donate to the cause, especially Bill Kryshak for spearheading the efforts with the Friends Group.

On another note, Bill Hewitt, whom many of us know from his long-term role with trail maintenance, recently passed away. Bill retired a few years ago from the DNR to spend more time with family. He was a wealth of knowledge and he taught me on the many nuances about working on these trails. I'll miss him immensely and wish his family the best for the new year.

As we close the chapter on 2022, I look forward to enjoying time outdoors in our winter wonderland. I hope the new year brings the best for everyone and folks find time to enjoy the trails and beauty of our Wisconsin outdoors this year as well.

## **President's Report**

**Bill Kryshak**

I hope the new year is off to a good start for everyone and that you have stayed safe in the varying weather we have experienced. I want to thank you as always for your generous support of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills Recreation Area. The Friends continues to try to help make both properties a positive experience for our visitors and we could not do this without our outstanding volunteers and member contributions.

For the cross-country skiing it has been a mixture of good and bad due to the storm we had in December which took down numerous trees on both the Red Cedar and at Hoffman Hills. While we were able to get the Red Cedar cleared and groomed for some very good December and early January skiing, we are still in the process of getting Hoffman Hills to the point where it can be groomed. A big thanks goes to groomer Dave Challe, his family and other volunteers who have put in many hours clearing Hoffman Hills while doing this without being able to use our gator due to it having mechanical issues. We hope to have the gator back by the time you are reading this and we are hoping to be able to groom the trail soon.

After the generous donations from members and skiers in our community, we were able to purchase the new Ski-Doo Expedition snowmobile that will be used for future grooming of the Red Cedar State Trail.



The machine was picked up from the dealer on January 12<sup>th</sup> and we are ready to put it to use. Thank you once again for your support that allowed us to make this happen. The Alpine lasted 30 years and feels like an old friend to Dave Gorman and I, however we are very excited to get to groom with the new machine. We are looking forward to the Candlelight Ski on January 27<sup>th</sup> where you can see the new machine and we hope you will be able to join us that night as it is always a fun time.

A big thank you to Daniel Hagaman for his presentation on the Monarch butterfly at our annual meeting held in November. Daniel did a fantastic job and we walked away with an appreciation of not only the Monarch but also other butterflies, their needed habitat and the migration of these beautiful insects.

Both properties continue to bring visitors to our community at record levels to enjoy the wonderful hiking, biking and skiing that they provide. The reality of things is that groups like the Friends are going to continue to be a major factor in the maintenance and improvement of our properties as budgets of State parks and recreation properties is sadly not increasing. I again thank you for all your generous contributions of both time and dollars to help us maintain and improve the experience for everyone.

I will end with a shout out of appreciation to our DNR property manager, Calvin. It is a pleasure to work with Calvin as his hard work and cooperation allows us to use our resources in the most efficient way.

## Vice President's Report

Ellen Ochs

We had a pretty successful summer season at the Trail Head Depot, with great volunteers and a fun Volunteer Recognition Picnic in September. It was wonderful to have the Depot open again! This year we only had enough volunteers for 3 days, so we staffed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The DNR staffed Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

It is our hope to be able to staff 4 days a week (Monday through Thursday) in 2023, but we'll need 2 or 3 more volunteers. We have a training day in May, and the "season" runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. New volunteers are always welcome! When the Friends staff the Depot, we get a percentage of the Trail Pass sales!

If you would like to do one three hour shift a week – or serve as a substitute - please contact me,

Ellen Ochs ([ellenbochs@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenbochs@yahoo.com)) Help us out in 2023!

## Treasurer's Report

Deb Challe

Activity finally started to return to normal for the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail in 2022, resulting in a nice bump in our finances. Individual membership donations nearly doubled to \$538 and it was nice to see some new members joining our cause. Business memberships continued strong even after our fundraising goal for the snowmobile was met, generating \$2547 in revenue. Membership contributions are our main source of income, so please keep that support coming!

Trail pass sales rebounded nicely this past year, both at the Depot and via online purchases. Our revenue from pass sales went from \$555 in 2021 to \$1,065 in 2022. Don't forget to buy your trail passes through the FRCT! You can do so (as well as renew your membership) via the website: <https://redcedarhoffman.org/>

The past year also saw some generous donations, including the \$250 Ashley Evenson Memorial for the Red Cedar Trail and \$2,000 from Fred and Ellen Ochs for future Friends of Red Cedar Trail & Hoffman Hills projects. We certainly appreciate your thoughtful support!

Account balances as of January 14, 2023 (after the final payment for the snowmobile):

Operating Fund .....	\$14,059
Hoffman Hills/Red Cedar Grooming Account...	\$3,120
<b>Total Funds Available .....</b>	<b>\$17,179</b>

Thanks to everyone for another successful year for the Friends!

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 977 "Likes", up by almost 100 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.

**Monarch Information****Joe Hagaman**

If you missed the Monarch presentation from our annual meeting in October, it is still available on our website [HERE](#).

**And here are some additional Monarch Resources:**

Monarch Joint Venture [www.monarchjointventure.org](http://www.monarchjointventure.org)

For educational resources, webinars, research and updates on Monarch conservation

Monarch Watch [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)

For ordering tags and research involving the movement of migrating monarchs

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)

For research on Monarchs and information on the western population of monarchs.

WWF [www.wwf.org](http://www.wwf.org)

For conservation and research pertaining to the eastern population of monarchs.

Journey North [www.journeynorth.org](http://www.journeynorth.org)

Documenting and tracking monarchs on their migration north through citizen science

Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative <https://wiatri.net/projects/monarchs/>

For localized organizations and tips on creating Monarch habitats in Wisconsin.

Monarch Larva Monitoring Project <https://monarchjointventure.org/mlmp>

A Minnesota citizen science project looking at the health of monarchs and milkweed.

## **Important Dues Reminder for 2023**

**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 2023 (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 \_\_\_\_\_**