

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Newsletter



Number 47

Fall 2011

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Barb Gorman
Ellen Ochs
Nancy Flyen
Joe Hagaman, Webmaster
and Newsletter Editor

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Scott Erickson
Michael Rivers
Calvin Kunkle
Penny Thiede-Klish

Annual Meeting

The FRCST/HH held its annual meeting on September 11, 2011 at the trailhead depot. The weather was perfect. The meeting was preceded by a potluck dinner. In addition to keeping the financial books in order, board member and treasurer, Bill Kryshak, has the additional talent of being an outstanding grill master. Thank you Bill!

A review of projects done in the past year and plans for next year were presented. The Candlelight Ski in January 2011 was a tremendous success. Mother Nature provided an enjoyable temperature and with the extensive amount of snow, a record number of attendees tried out snowshoeing, skiing and hiking. Mother Nature once again helped in June 2011 with beautiful weather prevailing for the activities of Nation Trails Day. An abundance of activities and displays were available and a large turnout attended.

The DNR staff has been busy this summer clearing brush on the Chippewa River Trail, the Red Cedar State Trail and at Hoffman Hills. At Hoffman Hills, work has been progressing well on the rerouting of a trail. This trail has been closed for almost a year due to it having been washed out from heavy rain last fall. It is anticipated it will be open for skiing this winter with an exhilarating downhill still available.

As the work and projects that occurred in the past year are reviewed, and projects for the future are discussed, it is amazing to see all the work and effort done by many people to sustain and maintain the two valued resources of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. This simply would not occur without all the terrific volunteers, the DNR staff, the Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills. Thank You!

Trail Manager's Report**Cal Kunkle**

First, I want to thank everyone that's volunteered their time over the last year. It's just been fantastic working with everyone. Because of people's generosity and support we have completed some great projects and more are in the works.

Between the Optimist Club and Friends Group over 300 trees were planted and watered to start an oak savanna restoration project at Hoffman Hills. We had very good survival the first summer with less than 10% die off, but winter will be the ultimate test.

We also began work on a new ski trail to replace the one washed out last summer. We still hope to have this trail opened this ski season. A timber sale was completed in late September to open up the new trail corridor and heavy equipment is planned to arrive in mid October to start construction. I want to especially thank Doug Voy for all his time he put into helping out on this project. He has been out multiple times working with DNR staff flagging the new trail section. This is just the start of a long term goal of widening the ski trails and rerouting sections of trail continually washing out. Look for more work in the future and opportunities to help out.

Also exciting news is that Hoffman Hills is in the process of getting new maintenance/ski grooming equipment! The Community Foundation of Dunn County-Hoffman Hills Fund, the Friends Group, the Optimist Club, and the DNR all came together to fund the purchase of a new John Deere Gator that will include tracks. This new machine will support the oak savanna restoration, ski grooming activities, and other property maintenance requirements.

DNR staff was also busy this summer on maintenance and visitor services. Major brushing work was completed on both properties which have helped to widen out trails. Val Johnson who was our summer visitor's services associate conducted 4 outdoor interpretive programs on the Red Cedar Trail.

Treasurer's Report**Bill Kryshak**

Our 2011 membership collections amount to a total of \$2,234.00 collected with half of the business collections going to the Hoffman Hills grooming account. That amount was \$644.50 leaving \$1,589.50 added to our previous balance for operations. We also receive a share of the dollars collected for trail passes which has been \$1,443.60 with another payment coming before the end of the year so we should be strong financially going into next year.

As of September 30th we have \$6,271.99 in our operating cash account and \$2,883.00 for grooming at Hoffman Hills. Our Grant account has a remaining balance of \$124.00 and our Burr Oak Savanna/Hoffman Hills account has a balance of \$15,575.60.

President's Report**Doug Voy**

There have been many positive developments at Hoffman Hills this summer. In May the Oak Savannah project took off with the planting of 300 Bur Oaks with the help of many volunteers from the Optimist Club and Friends group. This project has been several years in the making with burning the 20 acre site several years ago followed by a prairie planting followed by a burn early this spring prior to the planting. We had a very good summer for rain and watering was not required until August when Dave Gorman gave two day's effort helping water the trees from a DNR 4-wheeler with a water tank attached.

A logging operation on the North and West sides of the Oak Savannah (which is north of the north overflow parking lot) harvested the unwanted Box Elder trees. On October 21st approximately 35 members of the Optimist Club and the youth Optimists from the Menomonie Middle School piled up the remaining branches into piles to be burned over the winter months. This project needed to be completed before the next 30-acre phase of the Oak savannah project to the west can begin over the next several years. Thanks to John Taylor of the Optimist Club for organizing this project.

The "black" level trail on the Northeast corner of Hoffman Hills that washed out in the summer of 2010 has been rerouted. The logging has been completed and the new trail construction will be going on over the next couple of weeks. We believe that, weather permitting; this will be completed this fall and will allow opening the new trail for skiing this winter. Thanks to Calvin Kunkle for making the rerouting of this trail a priority for the skiers and hikers that have missed this trail over the last year.

The volunteer grooming of the ski trails at Hoffman Hills and the Red Cedar Trail has provided area skiers with quality skiing that would not exist without their efforts. The grooming at Hoffman Hills has been especially challenging, given the terrain and the condition of the 20 year old snowmobile used for pulling the grooming equipment. The snowmobile experienced many breakdowns and gets stuck frequently. The need for a new piece of equipment became obvious this past ski season and planning began in May to determine funding sources and select the right vehicle for the job. After much effort a John Deere Gator with tracks was selected after learning of the success at other ski areas. The cost, at nearly \$20,000, was daunting to say the least. The Friends Board suspected the fundraising could take a 2 or 3 years. We have been very fortunate to have several groups come together to make the purchase of the Gator happen this year. The Optimist Club, Hoffman Hills Foundation, The Friends and the DNR all committed funds to make this purchase happen. The Gator will be used for watering the Oak Savannah, pulling grooming equipment for ski trails, and maintenance uses at Hoffman Hills. Special thanks to Barb Gorman of the Friends, John Taylor of the Optimist Club, Bill Butsic of the Hoffman Hills Foundation, Linda McIntyre of the Community Foundation of Dunn County and Calvin Kunkle of the DNR for making this purchase possible. This is a terrific example of community groups coming together to fill a need.

Webmaster Report	Joe Hagaman
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The Friends website use has increased over the past year. So far in 2011, the page views per month have been averaging 1500 to 2000 for about 15,000 total visits in the past year. Check it out for yourself at <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>. You will find all sorts of information that will help you enjoy our two premier recreational destinations in the county. For you on-road bikers there is also a page showing the Dunn County Bike Routes.

Cross-Country Ski Corner	Barb Gorman
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It is hard to think of winter being nearby with the wonderful fall weather of October. Both the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills are ablaze in color. But, skiers do sneak a peek ahead on the calendar and look forward to the first skiable snow. The Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills will again be groomed by volunteers. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the FRCST/HH is excited by the addition of a new grooming machine. There are many folks to thank for this addition, which will be coming soon. The machine will be used primarily at Hoffman Hills. It is gratifying to be able to provide to the hard working volunteer groomers a machine that will significantly improve the safety and work of grooming. The 2010 ski season had a sufficient number of core groomers for both trails. These groomers will be contacted in the next few weeks to determine if they are willing to groom again in 2011. If you are interested in grooming, feel free to contact Barb Gorman at: gorbadd@charter.net.

The Depot Visitor Center Hours of Operation

May 1 until Memorial Day, Labor Day through Oct.
 WeekdaysClosed
 Saturday - Sunday 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Memorial Day through Labor Day
 Weekdays10 A.M. – 4 P.M.
 Saturday - Sunday & Holidays .. 9 A.M. – 5 P.M

Please Note: The Depot is closed from November until May.

National Trails Day

Jane Butsic

The Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills had fantastic weather for National Trails Day on Saturday June 4. The Friends along with the Wisconsin DNR sponsored many activities. The Depot Visitors Center was cleaned and welcomed visitors to the trail, always free for walking was also free for biking for the day. Bad Cat Bicycles gave bikes a quick tune up and safety check. The guys also helped set up the tent and get us ready for the day. A barbeque lunch was provided by the Optimist Club. Cookies from the Menomonie Market and lemonade were available all day.

Lots of fun activities were planned for the day:

Sandra McNaughton conducted a workshop on nature photography. Eight people brought cameras and walked down the trail with Sandy to snap pictures and receive tips on improving their pictures of nature. She talked about color, texture and line, showed everyone how to frame a picture and how to get a better images of nature with a point and click camera.

The Raptor Center from the University of Minnesota brought eagles and other birds of prey. They answered questions and provided information about the birds. Many children came to see these huge birds up close and personal.

Jim Swanson, the voyageur from the 1700s, brought his canoe and discussed the importance of the rivers in the history of our state. He showed what a voyageur needed to survive the weather and rivers of Wisconsin. Congratulations Jim on your honor as Outdoor educator of the year.

Bill Dingwall, an outdoor educator with the Menomonie School System presented Who Gives a Hoot? Everyone was able to dissect an owl pellet and see what the owls eat.

Penny and Val (from the DNR) set up an activity center throughout the day. They led activities to teach how to become better protectors of our natural resources. There was a scavenger hike (no picking plants!), making bird feeders and work from the Naturalist books. DNR representatives were on hand to answer any questions all day.

We had great weather and a wonderful turn out. Thanks to all who helped out and to everyone who came to join in the fun

Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills Meeting Schedule

Everyone is Welcome

Regular Meetings ---First Thursday of the months of Jan., March, May, Sept., and Nov.

Time: 7 P.M.

Place: Leisure Services Center (Senior Center), Menomonie

WEB Site: <http://redcedarhoffman.org/>

Business Memberships**Barb Gorman & Bill Kryshak**

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills continues to be fortunate with the memberships of several Dunn County businesses. All memberships are important to the Friends' group as this support helps to improve and sustain the two beautiful nature areas. Businesses have shown an extra commitment to help the Friends and become members. Please support the business members of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills.

2011 Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills Business Members

Bad Cat Bicycles

Phillip M. Steans, S.C.

BOMAC Vets Plus

Phillips Plastics Corporation

Cardinal Glass FG

Wal-Mart Distribution Center

Cedar Corporation

Xcel Energy

ConAgra/Swiss Miss Foods

Dr. Dan Wood, DDS, S.C.

Gary Welsh Construction

Gentle Dental Care, Dr. Lisa Joyce

Heritage Builders, Inc

3M Corporation

State Farm Insurance, Jackie Hunt

McCoy Development

Menomonie Farmers Union Co-op

Dues Reminder

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. As a reminder, dues can be paid by using the form on the last page of this newsletter and mailing to the address indicated. As a dues paying member, you will receive a membership card, newsletters and information on Friends activities.

Thank You for your support.

Interested in Volunteering

The Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills are indeed treasures that we locals enjoy as well as the many visitors that they attract. With State Funding cut-backs for trails, the role that volunteer groups play is becoming increasingly important. There are a number of opportunities available where help is needed. Some of the opportunities include eradicating invasive species, working on exhibits, gardening at the depot, repairing bird houses, trail projects, working in the depot, becoming a trail ambassador, or helping with special programs such as the Candlelight Ski and National Trails Day. If you are interested, or have any questions regarding volunteering, contact any of the board members. You will be rewarded knowing that you had a hand in preserving and maintaining these resources. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills would like to thank all of you who have volunteered in the past on various projects. Thank You.

Donation Information

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills have always been blessed with the willingness of its members and the community to volunteer their time and help with projects. Also, from time to time, many have chosen to make special monetary gifts. For those wishing to make special monetary gifts, they can be sent to our mailing address: FRCST, P.O. Box 628, Menomonie, WI, 54751. Money received by donation for specific purposes will be subject to approval of the Friends Board of Directors before it is expended for the specific purpose. A Life Time Membership would be provided to a donor for any memorial donation of \$150, or more. In the case of memorial funds, a minimum contribution of \$250 is required for the addition of a plaque. The Friends express our thanks and appreciate the generosity of all donors.

Merchandise Available in the Depot

New T-Shirts are this year:

Green Short Sleeve ... \$15

Blue Long Sleeve \$18

In addition, there are previous years T-Shirts in orange, gray, beige in some sizes.

Books

Critters of Wisconsin. \$5. This is a small book with great pictures of mammals and birds commonly seen in Wisconsin. This book is great to carry in your pack or to give to a child.

The Red Cedar Suite \$5. This book is by Menomonie's Jerry Bowker and Robert Schuler. The beautiful black and white photos by Jerry are enhanced by the poems by Robert.

For \$15.00 you can purchase the Wisconsin State Park Passport Book. This is a fun souvenir for the state park visitor. You put stamps from each state park in the book as you travel around the state.

Menomonie Water Bottles are available for only \$1.00.

Sales benefit The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills.

Trail Pass Fees

Daily\$4

Annual\$20

Pass purchase required before using trail for biking or skiing.

Pass is good for all Wisconsin state trails.

Use self-registration stations on the trail.

Same fee for residents and non-residents

*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

Everyone is welcome to
attend meetings of the
Friends Group.
(See Schedule on Page 4)



Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills

Join Today!

(or renew your membership)
Dues for 2010 (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"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Small Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Medium Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Large Corporation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Supporting | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Lifetime | |

Special Contribution to the CC Ski Grooming Fund _____