

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL & HOFFMAN HILLS NEWSLETTER



Number 39

Winter 2009

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Candlelight Ski – January 30, 2009

The annual popular winter event, the Candlelight Ski, will be held on January 30, 2009 from 6 - 9 P.M. The Red Cedar State Trail and the Stokke Trail will be lit with luminaries. New this year is the opportunity to snowshoe on an illuminated trail at neighboring Riverside Park. With the snow that we have had this season, it shapes up to be a great night to enjoy these winter activities. The Red Cedar State Trail will be open for skiing from the Depot to the ice wall, about 1.5 miles. We ask walkers to be respectful of the groomed Red Cedar State Trail and refrain from walking on it. For those wishing to ski, it is advisable that you bring your own skis. Limited ski rentals will be available from Stout Adventures by calling Tim Mertz at 232-5190, in advance. The Stokke Trail will be cleared to provide the opportunity for those wishing to take a candlelight walk. For those interested in snowshoeing, either bring your own snowshoes, or free snowshoes will be provided by the Menomonie School District for everyone in the family to hike at Riverside Park.

The Depot will be open and staffed with volunteers who can provide information about the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills. Of interest are the many displays in the Depot. Passes will not be required that evening; however, yearly trail passes will be available for sale. Also, for sale, will be Red Cedar State Trail merchandise.

After skiing or walking, warm up with a cup of hot chocolate provided by Swiss Miss and join everyone around the glowing bonfire. It is a fun time for the whole family to experience the joys of winter.

This event is organized by the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail & Hoffman Hills, Swiss Miss and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

A Free Night of Fun for All!!

TRAIL MANAGER'S REPORT**SCOTT ERICKSON**

As many of you may be aware we are currently under a "hiring freeze" and we do not know when the Manager's position will be filled. We are currently very short of staff due to recent retirements, employees leaving the agency and strained budgets. I want to thank all of you who have helped out with your volunteer time to keep things going. We will need to depend on more volunteer work in future years if we are going to continue to operate the way we do today. One change we are trying to make is by having volunteers groom the ski trails at Hoffman Hills and it is a bit of a struggle. On December 6th, we held a grooming training session with several volunteers showing interest to be trained to groom cross country ski trails. The session went well and as Bob and I left the property we were somewhat confident that we could continue to have the ski trails at Hoffman Hills groomed with the help of volunteers.

Since that time we have realized that we need more help from volunteers. If you or someone you know is interested in helping out with the grooming please contact us as we are very willing to work with you in accomplishing the task of having groomed ski trails at Hoffman Hills Recreation Area. Thank You.

Scott Erickson
Park Manager
Lake Wissota State Park

FROM THE EDITOR**DALE SEPPA**

As a Member of the Friends Group, periodically, you receive a Newsletter by mail. This provided you with news, activities and up-coming events related to the Red Cedar State trail and Hoffman Hills. You will still periodically receive newsletters by mail; however, less often. The Friends Group has a WEB site which is updated in a much timelier manner.

<http://redcedarhoffman.org/>

We have decided to make more use of this WEB site by also not sending out paper copies of every newsletter, and instead, informing you by postcard when an issue of the newsletter has been added to the WEB site. Current plans are to mail paper versions twice a year: at the beginning and at the middle of the year. You are encouraged to explore this WEB site as there are a number of items of interest.

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL & HOFFMAN HILLS MEETING SCHEDULE**Everyone is Welcome**

Regular Meetings ---First Thursday of the odd months (Jan., March, May, July, Sept., Nov.)

Time: 7 P.M.

Place: Leisure Services Center (Senior Center), Menomonie

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

FROM THE ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS (OCTOBER 26, 2008) BRUCE BROTHERS**MILES OF COLOR - WISCONSIN'S RED CEDAR TRAIL IS LOVELY ANY TIME OF YEAR, BUT IN THE FALL, IT'S STUNNING.**

Three minutes after swinging onto your bicycle seat at the Red Cedar trailhead in Menomonie, Wis., you're immersed in nature. The drone of office discussions, car wheels on asphalt and gas-powered yard equipment are quickly forgotten after you glide onto the hard-packed limestone trail where the most noticeable sounds are the murmur of wind rustling through leaves and water rushing over submerged rocks. The scenery's not bad, either.

A bit more than an hour's drive from downtown St. Paul, the Red Cedar State Trail can provide an afternoon of perspiration, a day of relaxation or large doses of both. A picturesque escape at any time of year -- people ski and snowshoe there during the winter -- Wisconsin's Red Cedar Trail becomes a 14 1/2-mile kaleidoscope of color in fall. The turning leaves paint a backdrop that veers between beautiful and breathtaking, sometimes on the distant bluffs and sometimes within an arm's reach.

Allow plenty of extra time if you carry a camera, because you'll want to stop again and again.

I was introduced to the Red Cedar this summer, and I keep going back, even though I feel I have to leave my more nimble road bike home and use my hybrid bike with its fat tires. The trail is certainly navigable by road bike, unlike most of the gravelly limestone trails in the Twin Cities, but the preponderance of riders on the Red Cedar seem to be in no big hurry. That suits me just fine.

If you're enthusiastic, the Red Cedar connects with the Chippewa River State Trail, a paved trail that can carry you east to Eau Claire or south to Durand. But start early: From Menomonie to Eau Claire and back is more than 70 miles. Durand, however, is an easy 7 1/2-mile segment from the end of the Red Cedar, the 42-mile round trip doable in an afternoon.

This is rural Wisconsin, with the trail mostly hugging a river that once served as a highway for logs floating downstream. You pass cornfields and the villages of Irvington and Downsville before arriving at the Dunnville Wildlife Area at the Red Cedar's southern tip. Menomonie, Durand and Eau Claire have nearby restaurants and convenience stores, but you'll have to depart the trail to find food in between.

BACK TO NATURE

Two of us from St. Paul cycled the length of the Red Cedar and then along the less scenic Chippewa River Trail to Caryville on Labor Day, only to find the lone gas station there shut for the holiday. Fortunately, vending machines outside the building served up cold drinks. But that's part of the appeal of such a trail. You're isolated in nature.

The showpiece of these miles of converted railroad corridors is the Red Cedar, where you can ride from one end to the other and back, spotting bald eagles, hawks, wild turkeys and maybe even a deer or fox or two.

A trail pass costs \$4 daily or \$20 annually.

The trail passes the historic Dunnville Cutstone Quarry (no trespassing) and ends at a wood-planked railroad trestle more than 800 feet long that crosses the Chippewa River. On an 80-degree day early in the fall, my friend and I pulled to a halt and watched a very bold young man scale the iron scaffolding to the top, then moon the folks at a sandy river beach more than 50 feet below before saluting and leaping to the water. When his head finally popped back above the surface after several long seconds, the onlookers cheered and applauded. Not everyone was so enthralled; a man straddling his bicycle near me shook his head, climbed back on the bike and pedaled away, offering the comment that he was in no mood to have to dig out his cell phone to dial 9-1-1.

PRIVATE PARADISE

A month later, on a gray day, both the beach and the bridge were deserted as we pedaled across the spectacular span where a smooth, wood surface recently had been applied. It had taken us nearly two hours to cruise 14 1/2 miles as we stopped many times for photographs, but neither the oncoming chill nor the waning daylight seemed to matter as we pivoted to the north and pedaled back along otherwise empty stretches of trail. It seemed unlikely we would be hauling our bikes back to the Red Cedar Trail before next spring -- though a fine fall day could lead to a spontaneous decision to sneak back one last time -- so neither of us was in any hurry. This ride is one experience worth savoring.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CORNER**BARB GORMAN**

Usually this column lets folks know about the condition of the ski trails due to either the generosity of, or lack of, Mother Nature in providing snow. Mother Nature to date has been generous and the cross-country ski season is a happy benefactor. Both the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills are in excellent condition. Tracks for diagonal striding are in place and the mid-section of the trails are in good shape for the skate striders.

Now that the ski report has been given, this column would like to give a salute to the groomers. On December 6, 2008, Scott Erickson and Bob Goers of the DNR gave an outstanding training on how to groom, with special focus on grooming at Hoffman Hills. The State budget does not get any kinder and as a result, volunteer groomers were needed at Hoffman Hills as well as for the Red Cedar State Trail. A call for groomers was made and several people generously responded. Most of the volunteers identified wanting to groom the Red Cedar State Trail, so more groomers are needed for Hoffman Hills.

Jim Janowak retreats from retirement to groom at Hoffman Hills. Todd Burns and Chris Ruch have also joined the ranks of Hoffman Hills groomers, but more are needed due to job and time constraints. Grooming is hard at times, but also very rewarding. One of the groomers for the Red Cedar State Trail had several of us who attended the December 6, 2008 training in laughter about the trials and tribulations that occur during grooming. We were also told of the beauty and rewards of the work. The amount of work and time given by the groomers is appreciated. This is one of the reasons why efforts are made to keep the trails in good groomed condition. Walking/hiking on the designated ski trails damages the grooming. This column salutes and thanks those who have volunteered to groom and those who have been doing the grooming: Bruce Jordan, Evan Jordan, Ron Pfiffner, Dan Haug, Jim Tenorio, Joe Plouff, John Wesolek, Chris Ruch, Todd Burns, Bill Kryshak and Jim Janowak.

We are still very much in need of volunteer groomers at Hoffman Hills. Please call Barb Gorman at 235-1725, if you are interested and have the time. [Thank-You Groomers!](#)

DONATION INFORMATION

The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail/Hoffman Hills has 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.

FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL

INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR - 2008

Tom Kilgore, Treasurer

OPERATING ACCOUNT:

EXPENDITURES:

Room Rent - City of Menomonie	\$ 84.00	
Annual Meeting - Best Western	\$ 259.99	
Speaker Fees - Beaver Creek Reserve	\$ 76.97	
Projects: UW Stout Window Clings & 1,200 Brochures	\$ 462.17	
Joe Hagaman - Web Page	\$ 50.00	
Birch Creek Reserve donation	\$ 2,000.00	
WestWind Printing-Newsletters and Flyers	\$ 402.91	
Candlelight Ski	\$ 130.09	
Trail Days Treats	\$ 125.10	
T-Shirts & Vests Purchased-Fleet Feet	\$ 471.50	
T-Shirts Purchased-Chamber of Commerce	\$ 741.98	
Insurance	\$ 398.00	
Postage and Box Rent	\$ 349.48	
Office, Administration, Memberships, Non-tax Corp	\$ 55.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES 2008		\$ (5,607.19)

REVENUES:

T-Shirts, Books, Patches & Passports	\$ 950.00
Donations (detailed in prior newsletter)	\$ 596.00
Memberships	\$ 2,527.50
Trail Passes	\$ 2,070.40

TOTAL REVENUE 2008 **\$ 6,143.90**

NET INCREASE IN CASH FROM 2008 BUSINESS **\$ 536.71**

PLUS: BEGINNING CASH BALANCE - JANUARY 1, 2008 **\$ 9,242.51**

ENDING CASH BALANCE - DECEMBER 31, 2008 **\$ 9,779.22**

HOFFMAN HILLS GROOMING STEWARDSHIP-ACCOUNT:

Donation: Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail (2006)	\$ 500.00	
Member Donations 2006 (\$625) 2007 (\$300)	\$ 925.00	
Business* Funds 2006 (\$350), 2007 (\$75)	\$ 425.00	
Member Donations 2008	\$ 155.00	
Business* Funds 2008	\$ 1,162.50	
Payment to DNR-Grooming Fees 3-08	\$ (1,200.00)	
Balance 12/31/08		\$ 1,967.50

* 50% of FRCST Business Memberships

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP BARB GORMAN & TOM KILGORE

It has been rewarding to see the number of business memberships increase over the past year. The Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills appreciate the support of the county's businesses to preserve these two nature areas. The number of people who use the two areas on a daily basis is just amazing. The two areas are unique for Dunn County and enhance the quality of life. The support of Dunn County businesses is very gratifying. Please support the business members of the Friends of the Red Cedar State Trail and Hoffman Hills:

Vets Plus

Cedar Corp

The Creamery

Dunn Energy Cooperative

Heritage Builders

Legacy Chocolate

3M Corporation

Xcel Energy

Farmers Union Co-op

Red Cedar Medical Center

Phillips Plastic Corporation

Conagra

Phil Steans, Attorney

Bad Cat Bicycles

Gary Welch Construction

Jackie Hunt Insurance

RE-MAX Realty

Shefchik Builders

Main Street Framing

Cardinal Glass

Simple Sports

The Medicine Shoppe

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.

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.

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 2)



FRIENDS OF THE RED CEDAR STATE TRAIL & HOFFMAN HILLS

Join Today!

(or renew your membership)
Dues for 2009 (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 | |