

Mountain Times

The Friends of Rib Mountain State Park
4200 Park Road, Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Vol. 6 Issue 3

Fall 2007

You Are Invited!

*Please join the friends of Rib Mountain for our annual
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Meeting.*

When: Monday October 1, 2007

Social 6:00

Dinner 6:30

Meeting 7:15

*Where: Town of Rib Mountain's Doepke Park shelter
Hwy. N just west of the new Rib Mt. Fire station.*

Join your fellow Friends for a wrap-up of the year's events, recognition of park volunteers, a short business meeting, and election of new board members.

There is no cost to attend.

Please RSVP to Steve Engler – ssengler@charter.net or 298-7933

The 2007 Summer Concerts in the Clouds

This year's concerts proved to be an overwhelming success. Getting an precise count proved very challenging. Our best estimate is an audience of about 800 enjoyed great weather to go along with some outstanding music at the June 23 Becky Schlegel and July 21 Frogwater concerts.



The Becky Schlegel Duo



Large crowds, great music, perfect weather

The Friends of Rib Mountain wish to thank our sponsors for making these concerts possible:

Peoples State Bank
Wausau Insurance Company/Liberty Mutual
Granite Peak Ski Area
Rib Mountain Cycles
The Rib Mountain Inn
The Best Western Midway Hotel

The Friends of Rib Mountain thank The Marathon County Farm Bureau for providing ice cream, and **Sara Kaiser**, 2007 Fairest of the Fair, for helping hand out the treats at the June concert.

Thanks to the concert committee for putting together this year's series.

Sandy Cihlar	Steve Engler	Russ Graveen
Andy Hecht	Sheryl Hemp	Greg Huber
Heather Janes	Kevin Keeffe	Nancy Stencil
	Tim Thompson	

From the President

I don't know if it was the perfect weather, great musicians, good articles in City Pages, or some combination of the above, but we had two huge crowds for our summer concerts. I think the word is out on what a great place the park is for concerts. Big crowds aren't limited to concerts either. The June 29 raptor program drew a record crowd of over 200.

The DNR's capital improvement budget for the next biennium includes over \$3 million to begin some of the improvements to the park that were included in the new master plan. In addition, the Rib Mountain projects are high on the priority list. If the budget survives without major changes, we may finally start to see some long awaited projects get started.

If you have been up at the park the past few weeks you may have noticed that our two super volunteers are back working the trails. Dave and Carol Marquart have set up camp and are continuing to help clean up and remark trails. Welcome back Dave and Carol, and THANKS.

Happy Hiking,
Steve Engler, President
president@ribmountain.org
715-298-7933

New Parks Director Named

The Wisconsin DNR has named Dave Borsecnik the new Wisconsin State Park Director, starting July 23. He is a career employee of the Department of Natural Resources, starting as a seasonal employee in 1979, and most recently working as the Manager of Lake Kegonsa State Park and Team Supervisor for 8 park and trail properties in Dane and Jefferson Counties.

Snow Shoe Hikes—2008

Mark your calendars for our winter snow shoe hikes. January 12 we will try a daytime hike. January 26 will remain the candlelight hike. Things are still in the planning stages so keep checking and hope for some good January snow.

Eagle Scout Paints Shower Building

The Friends give a big thank-you to **Ben Fisher** for painting the interior, doors, and trim of the campground shower building as his Eagle Scout project. After seven years of use, a good painting was needed. Thanks Ben.

Six Board Positions Up For Election

The term of the following current members of the Board of Directors will be up at the October 1 meeting: Steve Engler, Kevin Keeffe, Bea Musolf, Nancy Stencil, Joe Wachtel, and Scott Wegner. Any member of the Friends interested in serving on the Board can contact Secretary Sheryl Hemp at 842-5421 or attend the October meeting and state your interest.

A Geology Review of Rib Mountain

It's nearly 4 miles long and rises to an elevation of 1924 feet. The geologic formation we call Rib Mountain is referred to as a monadnock (a general term for a conspicuous hill that stands above the surrounding plain). Responsible for the Rib Mountain monadnock is Rib Mountain quartzite, an extremely resistant metamorphic rock, metamorphosed from ancient sandstone. The quartzite varies from medium grained to a more predominate coarse grained crystal ranging from three to eight millimeters in size. While extremely resistant to weathering, quartzite is somewhat brittle and because of this is often seen as talus on steeper slopes. Rib Mountain is composed of masses of nearly vertical, south-dipping quartzite with an estimated thickness of from 1000 to 4000 feet. This quartzite is embedded in a much larger mass of a rock called "syenite." This syenite can be found at the base of the mountain, down at the level of Highways N and NN. Some of the syenite is exposed to view on the south side of Highway N just west of the junction with Highway KK. You might think of Rib Mountain as an iceberg, with more of the quartzite being below the level of the surrounding syenite plain than above it. The same is true of Mosinee and Hardwood Hills. It is estimated that the formation dates back from 1.45 to 1.67 billion years. Rib Mountain as we see it today fully emerged sometime in the past 300 million years.

Credits: Gene Musolf, PhD
Keith Montgomery, PhD

Teacher's Study Guide Available

The second edition of the Rib Mountain Teacher's Study guide is available at the park for area teachers, youth group leaders, parents, or anyone who would like to learn more about the natural world found on Rib Mountain.

The cost is \$5 for teachers and for \$10 to the public.

Board of Directors

Steve Engler President
Gene Musolf Vice President
Scott Wegner Treasurer
Sheryl Hemp Secretary

Directors: Sandi Cihlar Wes Ebert Ray Heiser
Greg Huber Kevin Keeffe Debra Mech
Bea Musolf Nancy Stencil Joe Wachtel

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