

Mountain Times

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

Vol. 8 Issue 1

Winter 2009

From the President



Happy New Year!

It's 2009 and the start of another exciting year here at Rib Mountain State Park. Winter is always a beautiful and peaceful time to explore this gem of a park. Whether you prefer the speed of downhill skiing at Granite Peak or the solitude and exercise of snowshoeing, Rib Mountain provides hours of winter fun for the whole family.

On behalf of the Friends of Rib Mountain State Park, I would like to invite you to come up to the "mountain." On Saturday, January 17, we will have a daytime snowshoe hike from 11-2 pm. You can explore our new quarry trail. Then, on Saturday, February 21, we will have an evening candlelight snowshoe hike from 6-8 pm. Snowshoes are available to rent and we will have a bonfire and snacks.

Come and enjoy winter in the North Woods – truly a magical time of the year!

Sheryl Hemp

President, Friends of Rib Mountain State Park

Got Snowshoes?

We got Snow

Daytime snowshoe hike—Saturday, January 17
11 – 2 pm

Candlelight snowshoe hike—Saturday, February 21
6 – 8 pm

We have lots of snow so why not go out and play in it? If you have never tried snowshoeing before, this is a great time to try it out. Both hikes will start at the Friends concession stand. **Joel Bratz** will have snowshoes available for use in exchange for a good will donation. Treats, refreshments, and a bonfire will be available. A park admission pass is required. For information call the park at 842-2522.

If you would like to volunteer to help at either events, please contact **Nancy Stencil** at 359-9166. She can use help setting up the route, tending the fire, handling the goodies, and providing treats and refreshments. Hope to see you there.

Park Nature Center Update

The UW – Stevens Point Schmeckle Reserve Planners will soon be completing the final draft of the Conceptual Master Plan for our proposed Nature and Education Center. The Schmeckle staff have met with the Friends and DNR officials on several occasions over the past year and a half to put our ideas for this facility into a plan that will serve as a fund-raising tool and starting point for architectural plans.

After the plan has been finalized, the Board will then begin to work with the DNR to set a timetable to deal with infrastructure needs for the facility and to begin our strategy to raise the money needed to make this building a reality. A copy of the plan will be available at the park office for review by Friends members sometime in the next two months.

Quarry Hiking Trail

UW – Stevens Point student, **Aaron Gajewski**, spent most of the summer of 2008 as the lead worker on the Friends of Rib Mountain project to put a hiking trail into the park 3M quarry addition. With lots of help from fellow UW-SP students, **Teresa Stahl** and **Amanda Mellon** and help from students of the Wausau School District Service Learning Program, hikers now have a trail to take them from the current red trail out to the quarry. From there, old existing quarry and logging roads now serve as a trail around the quarry and to the Grouse Lane gate off of Hwy NN.

Work remains to be done in 2009. Segments of the trail still need wood chips and trail markers, but basically, it's ready for hikers once the snow melts. We have applied for additional grants to add benches, interpretive panels, and to develop maps of the new trail. The Friends also hope to continue to build a working relationship with UWSP students and staff in the development of interpretive information for the quarry area.

As the trail was being completed, many people were already out exploring the new accessible areas of the park. It is a unique and quiet area with interesting microclimates that hide the reality that you are just minutes away from downtown.

2009 Concerts in the Clouds

Tentative dates for the summer season

Saturday, June 20, Saturday, July 18 (Wausau Symphony) and Saturday, August 1. More information will be posted on the Friends web site www.ribmountain.org as we finalize our plans.

Open Board Meeting March 9

The next meeting of the Board of directors is scheduled for 7 pm on Monday, March 9. The meeting will be held in the conference room at the DNR service center at the intersection of Highways N and R, at the bottom of Park Road.

Members are always welcome to attend board meetings. If you plan to attend, use the employee entrance at the back of the building.

Tax Time Reminder

Looking for a tax deduction that will help support Wausau's best known landmark for years into the future? Consider the "Friends of Rib Mountain State Park Fund." This fund, established as an endowment in 2001, is administered by the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin.

The purpose of the endowment is to help meet the long-term needs of the park. Future needs might include displays and educational material for our planned nature center or funding a summer naturalist position for the park.

For information on making a donation to the Rib Mountain Fund or to include the park in your estate plan, please contact the Community Foundation at 845-9555.

We Need You

**It's membership renewal time for 2009 –
Check your address label**

Please look at your mailing label to see your membership status. Many of you have taken advantage of our two-year renewal option and are paid for this year. If your label does not indicate that you are paid through 2009, please take a moment to renew your membership today. Your membership will help us to continue to support Rib Mountain State Park. If you're paid for the year, consider a donation to the Rib Mountain Fund.

Volunteer Ops

There is a saying that if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. The Friends would like to offer all of our busy members the opportunity to spend some additional time at the park. Even if you're not that busy, we still need you!



Opportunities for you to help include.

Spring projects:

- Painting the shower building
- Putting up trail markers
- Splitting firewood
- Concession stand set-up and operation
- Summer concert set-up and directing cars to park
- Invasive species control

If you can't wait for spring, we currently need key people to serve as:

- Concert fundraiser
- Membership development coordinator
- Volunteer coordinator

If you can help or want more information contact

President Sheryl Hemp at 842-5421, email

President@ribmountain.org or

Steve Engler 298-7933, email Steve@ribmountian.org

Board of Directors

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