

Mountain Times

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

Vol. 6 Issue 1

Winter 2007

From the President

Dear Friends of Rib Mountain State Park,
A big thanks to **Nancy Stencil** for coordinating and running the snowshoe hikes this winter. Also a big thanks to **Joel Bratz** who again provided snowshoes for the event. The January hike had over 150 people attend. About 75 people braved the cold to attend the February 10 hike. I also want to thank **Sandi Cihlar, Deb Mech, and Ann Janssen** for helping with the events.

Elections were held at the fall dinner meeting for seven positions on the Board of Directors. Six of the seven members were nominated to serve again and elected to another two-year term. After serving many years on the Board, **Wib Johnson** stepped down from his position and we welcome **Debra Mech** back to our Board. I would like to thank Wib for his service to the Board over the past years.

With the start of a new year, it is also time for our annual membership renewal. Please take a few moments to send in the enclosed renewal to our Friends group. As with any group, an active membership is very important to success. I hope we can count on your continued support.

Happy hiking,

Steve Engler, President
Friends of Rib Mountain State Park
715.298.7933
e-mail; president@ribmountain.org

Rib Mountain Wild Card

Rib Mountain now has its own DNR "Wild Card." **Penny Anderson** provided the photograph and text for the card that highlights Rib Mountain as one of Wisconsin's special places. The Friends provided the funding to produce 10,000 of these collector cards that will be available across the state at DNR facilities and events. If you have an idea to put these cards to use promoting Rib Mountain please contact the Friends at info@ribmountain.org.



How Sweet it Is

After a two-year wait, **Jane Wiley**, founding member of the Friends of Rib Mountain, was confirmed by the state Senate as a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. She will serve on the board until May 1, 2009.

As a member, Jane will help set policy for the Department of Natural Resources on a variety of issues, including hunting, fishing, air quality, water policies, and state park management.

We wish her the best as she begins to tackle the difficult issues facing the board.

Nature Center Update

The nature center project the Friends have been planning for the past six years has taken a new direction. We have officially withdrawn our planned addition to the new contact station. The new (state) master plan for the park includes a two-level education center and meeting room overlooking the South side of the park. This facility was included in phase three of the master plan, potentially ten to twenty years out. The Board has decided to help make this building happen in the near future and create a building that would be more functional than the contact station addition we had originally planned.

Another nature facility in the central Wisconsin area has caught our attention in the past year. Members of the Friends of Rib Mountain visited the new education center at the Mead Wildlife area between Mosinee and Marshfield. We met with the Friends of the Mead who were instrumental in creating a first class educational facility for school groups from the entire central Wisconsin area.

Our visit to the Mead taught us that the first thing we should do is develop a master plan for the project. We were referred to the staff of the UW-Stevens Point Schmeckle Reserve who provides this type of planning on a consulting basis. We are currently in the process of contracting with the Schmeckle Reserve to do our plan. Learn more about the Schmeckle Reserve at www.uwsp.edu/CNR/schmeckle

Concerts in the Clouds—2007

The concert committee has begun work on the 2007 “Concerts in the Clouds.” We have tentatively set the dates for Saturday, June 23 and Saturday, July 21. We are also planning a third concert at a new “Fall Festival” to be held in mid to late September. Anyone interested in helping with plans for a fall festival can email the Friends at info@ribmountain.org. or call Steve Engler at 298-7933. Watch for more information in the coming months.

Teacher’s Study Guide Available

The second edition of the Rib Mountain Teacher’s Study guide is available 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. Copies are available at the park.



Community Day Fund Raiser

The Friends of Rib Mountain will be participating in this year’s Younkers Community Day promotion to raise funds for the organization. The Friends will be selling coupon booklets that include \$10 off any \$10 purchase and eight 20% off coupons. These coupons will be valid on Saturday, March 3 at Younkers in the Wausau Center Mall. The coupon books will be sold for \$5 with the Friends keeping the five dollars. If you would like to help sell these books or would like to purchase one for yourself or as a gift, please contact **Heather Janes** at 581-5263. Thank you Heather for helping the Friends get involved with this fundraiser.

Next Board Meeting Date

The Board of Directors will hold their next meeting at 7 PM on Monday, March 5, in the conference room of the DNR Service Center at the bottom of Park Road. All members are invited to attend. Please use the employee door on the Southeast corner of the building.

We Need You

It’s membership renewal time for 2007 -
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 2007, 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.

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

Board of Directors

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