

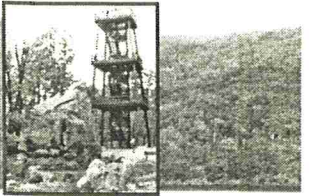


FRIENDS OF
RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
149801 State Park Road
Wausau, WI 54401

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RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
149801 State Park Rd.
Wausau WI 54401



Annual Report to Membership

Fall 2021



Complimentary Newsletter

If you are receiving our newsletter for the first time, The Friends of Rib Mountain State Park hope you enjoy this complimentary copy. Please consider joining us to help maintain Rib Mountain State Park as the special place it is for area families to enjoy the outdoors.

FRIENDS OF
RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Annual Meeting & Dinner

Monday, November 8, 2021

5:30 – Social Hour and Dinner 6:00 – Meeting

At the Friends Gathering Space
at Rib Mountain State Park



FROM THE PRESIDENT

You'll remember that as 2021 began we were still very much restricted by COVID and knowing we would not be able to host the candlelight snowshoe events a group of Board members offered to maintain a groomed snowshoe trail that visitors could use safely on their own time.

We continuously evaluated when to safely begin various events - starting the year having our meetings virtually, revisiting our committees (virtually) to review and document what has been done in the past, recently, and discuss new ideas, and adding a Maps page to our website.

Slowly things began to trend toward normal with some outdoor events resuming, meeting in person outdoors, and eventually almost all restrictions were lifted. However some things just didn't come together as easily or as quickly as we had hoped to be able to get them to happen this year and so we missed out on some of our typical nature programs and the summer Concerts.

As for what we did accomplish, a special thank you goes to the Wausau Bird Club, namely Susan Haug and Myles Hurlburt, for leading us on our birding hike. Thank you to Kevin Keeffe, Bill Bursaw, and Bayli Christorf for their efforts in the reconstruction of the playground at the upper picnic area (read more about this project in this newsletter), and to everyone who helped with the reopening of the concession stand in the fall.

As we hope for an even better 2022, we ask you all to stay tuned to the master planning project and provide your input during the public comment periods. Thank you all for supporting the Friends of Rib Mountain!

👤 **Steve Kaiser, President**
president@ribmountain.org

PARK REPORT

What a year! It was nice to finally see a *somewhat* normal year at Rib Mountain. The Gathering Space, Visitor Station, and tower opened back up to the public, we could hold weddings and events once again in the amphitheater, and the Friend's concession stand opened its doors during fall weekends. Yet, the pandemic held its tight grasp and it wasn't a completely normal season, and I have yet to see my first concert in the clouds which I know to be so popular.

While we didn't have quite the heavy visitation that we saw in 2020, the park still saw a substantial increase in park visitors from 2019 – up a whopping 46% from our attendance counter and estimates. While this increase in usage has provided the park with some minor challenges, above all it has been great to see more folks getting outdoors and enjoying the park in their free time. That's why we're here, after all.

Over the past twelve months, we have been able to get a few notable things done. We were finally able to see the new playground installment completed – from tree clearing to grass seeding -- after project delays due to Covid, updating and installing new interpretive panels on the western trails (another Friends donation), resurfacing the rough western section of Park Road, repairing swaths of the Yellow Trail which were impacted with washouts from heavy August rains, as well as lots of planning for upcoming capital development, Eagle Scout, and maintenance projects planned in the park for 2022.

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers, Friends members and staff for all of the work involved in having another successful and busy year at Rib! I am looking forward to see what 2022 brings to the park.

👤 **Bayli Christorf, Property Manager**
parkoffice@ribmountain.org

For 2022 The Friends tentatively plan to again sponsor the popular Rib Mt State Park...

Snowshoe Hikes

The Friends hope to invite you soon to explore Rib Mountain State Park on snowshoes at our 2022 Candlelight hikes, tentatively planned for two Saturdays, one in January and another in February or March, weather permitting. Dates and time to be arranged after the first of the year. There is no cost to participate, though donations to cover costs are welcome. And of course there will be hot chocolate and goodies. Start at the Friends Gathering Space, just past the Park office. Thanks to snowshoe loans from Joel Braatz the hikes allow you to try it out without having to buy snowshoes. Some snowshoes will be available to borrow but we suggest you bring your own or rented snowshoes if available. A park annual or daily admission sticker is required. Parking is limited, so please consider carpooling if possible.

For more info, check the Friends' website at www.ribmountain.org.

👤 **Karen Graff, Jodi and Shawn Morgan, Co-Chairs**

**Concerts
in the Clouds**

Concerts for 2021 were canceled due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic

We expect 2022 Concert dates to be:

Sat, June 25

Sat, July 16

Sat, August 6

As always, thanks to sponsors:

*Bone and Joint Clinic
Granite Peak Ski Area
Marathon County
Farm Bureau*

THANK YOU

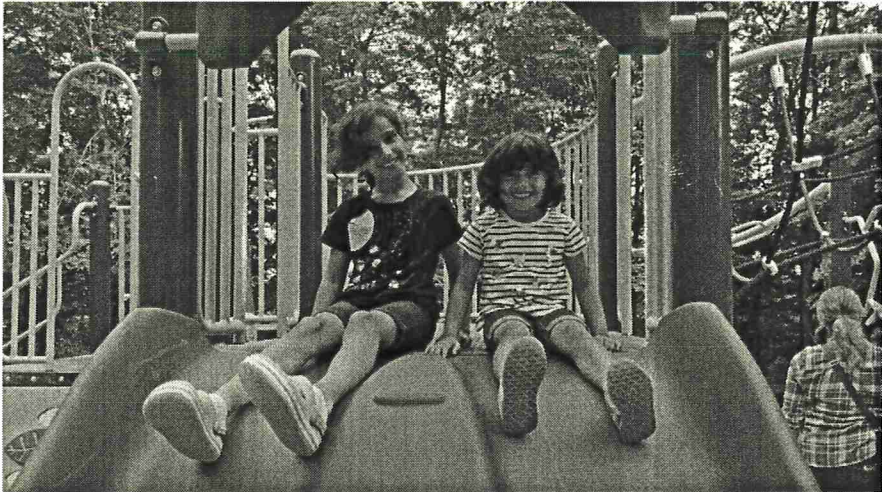
For support and funding of Friends of Rib Mountain programs and projects:

- Dudley Foundation
- BA and Esther Greenheck Foundation
- Community Foundation of North Central WI
- Community Enhancement Grant
- State of Wisconsin Stewardship Grants
- Connexus Association
- Ed & Micki Koth Fund
- Emily's Path
- Covantage Cares

- Dave and Gloria Carlson
- Marty and Laurie Reinhart
- Bill Bursaw
- Dave & Gloria Carlson
- Sandi Cihlar
- Cassandra Doran
- Karen Graff
- Anonymous Donor
- Anonymous Top of the Rib
- concessions customers and park visitors
- Anonymous Concerts in the Clouds
- patrons and supporters
- The Friends of Rib Mountain State Park, Inc.

Those who helped in playground planning and installation:

- Bob and Linda Bentz
- Angie Conklin
- Jaden Dzwonkowski
- Wes Ebert
- Chris & Lucy Ecke
- Randy Falstad
- Russ & Theresa Graveen
- Isaiah Gruett
- Sheryl Hemp
- Greg Huber
- Liesle Dille & Bennett Markevitch
- Steve Kaiser
- Leslie & Ella Keffe
- David Keffe
- Jeannine Krause
- Chris Larson
- Julia and Troy Salzman
- Joe Wachtel
- Scott Wegner
- William and Abby Wogernese
- Xander Young-Howard & Emily Merget
- Bayli Christorf, Bill Bursaw & Rib Mountain State Park Staff



FRIENDS PLAYGROUND PROJECT

The Friends organization announces a completion of the playground in the upper park area near the observation tower and Friends concession shop. The existing equipment, installed over 40 years ago had fallen into disrepair, and consequently was removed. The new playground provides for younger children a safe and enjoyable alternative to other park play options.

The design and placement of equipment takes advantage of the site's Northward view of the Wausau area, and thinning of some vegetation further enhanced the experience and safety for playground users.

Installation happened during the past summer with a dedication in August. Friends members and other volunteers contributed time and energy to this exciting park addition, and for that we are grateful

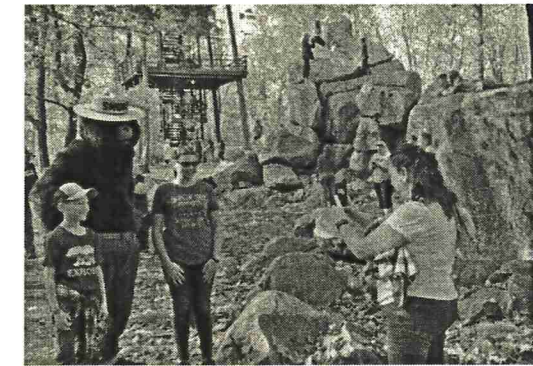
Kevin Keffe
kevin@ribmountain.org

Friends of Rib Mountain State Park, Inc. Summary of Unrestricted Operating Activity January 1 - December 31, 2020

	ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET
Revenue:		
Donations:		
Other grants received	1000	500
Concert sponsors	0	3250
Other	1,529.31	1,200.00
Total donations	2529.31	4950
Memberships	1005	1500
Interest	416.8	25
Transfer from Top of the Rib	0.00	5,000.00
Total revenues	3,951.11	11,475.00
Expenditures:		
Donations:		
Programs at the Park	0	2000
Other	3,192.50	100.00
Total donations	3162.5	2100
Activities:		
Concerts	0	3500
Snowshoe hikes	301.31	400
Board & membership meetings	243.98	300
Administrative assistant	0	0
Membership contact/incentives	112	300
Marketing (website, logo, newsletter)	0	500
Insurance	718	750
Licenses/fees/dues	89	100
Miscellaneous	63.28	175.00
Total expenditures	4,690.07	8,125.00
Net revenues vs expenditures	(738.96)	3,350.00
Balances as of 12/31/2020		
Savings	34898.26	
Checking	654.97	
CD	25,788.40	
Total of above accounts	61,341.63	
Uncommitted	33,682.00	

TOP OF THE RIB CONCESSION STAND

Thanks to Russ and Theresa Graveen, Chris and Lucy Ecke, Steve Kaiser, Savannah Wisniewski, Ella Keffe, Woody Tischer, Nolan Mudler, Janet and many other volunteers we were finally able to open the Concession Stand for a fun fall after nearly two years of being closed. New colors in t-shirts and sweats with the Friends logo have been ordered, and will be available through the winter in the park office. You'll also find cool metal Rib Mountain hiking medallions along with a magnet version for the refrigerator. Next season look for fun items for the kids, as well as the snacks, beverages, ice cream and popcorn you've come to know and love.



We were fortunate to have had a visit from Smokey Bear during the fantastic warm fall weather.

Plan to stop next season when you're in the park - We think you'll be impressed.

Thanks also go out to Savannah Wisniewski and Ella Keffe for their fantastic work as our fall interns.

We all look forward to seeing you next spring...

Kevin Keffe top@ribmountain.org

Membership Form

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Forever Friend \$2500 Annually*
*min 3yr commit

Business Membership 1 year \$100.00
2 years \$175.00

Supporting Membership 1 year \$100.00
Includes a certificate, window decal, and annual park admission sticker.

Family Membership 1 year \$20.00
2 years \$30.00

Please list family members:

Individual Membership 1 year \$10.00
2 years \$15.00

Additional donation to FRIENDS \$ _____

Additional donation to FRIENDS Endowment Fund for the benefit of Rib Mountain \$ _____
(Administered by the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin)

TOTAL—Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ payable to: "Friends of Rib Mountain State Park"

*Donations to the Friends of Rib Mountain State Park, Inc., or the Rib Mountain Fund may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

I am interested in the long-term future of the park and would like to be contacted in regards to making a memorial gift to the:

Friends of Rib Mountain Endowment Fund

Visit us on the Internet at:
www.ribmountain.org

I would like to become active in the Friends of Rib Mountain State Park in the following areas:

- Hiking Trails**
- Trail maintenance
 - Trail development
 - Invasive species control
 - Adopt a Trail Segment
- Special Events Planning**
- Nature programs
 - Summer concerts
 - Snowshoe hikes
 - Fall festival

- Park Concessions**
- Counter assistance
 - Gift item merchandising
 - Food preparation
- Communication**
- Newsletter
 - Website
 - Literature development
 - Publicity/promotion
 - Trail map & guide

- Firewood**
- Cut, split & stack
- Assistance to park staff**
- Office assistance
- Organization**
- Membership recruitment
 - Volunteer calling
 - Fundraising
 - Board of directors

Interest/Comments:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: Friends of Rib Mountain State Park, Inc.
149801 State Park Road
Wausau WI 54401

Support the Friends with an Endowment Donation

Support the work of the Friends of Rib Mountain State Park by making a donation today to the Friends of Rib Mountain State Park Fund at the Community Foundation. Your gift today helps grow our endowment fund as an investment for the future.

At the end of 2018, our fund balance was just over \$33,000. We have a goal of reaching \$50,000 before we begin to use a portion of the annual earnings from the fund to help fund various activities at the park including a broad range of nature programs and outdoor activities, or perhaps even a part-time naturalist.

Your donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, or whatever amount you feel comfortable giving, will benefit the park and park visitors for years to come.

Checks for the endowment fund should be made payable to:
Community Foundation of Northcentral Wisconsin,
500 1st St, Suite 2600, Wausau, WI 54403
and please specify "Friends of Rib Mountain State Park Fund"

FRIENDS OF RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Board of Directors

Steve Kaiser President
Christopher Ecke..... Vice President
Scott Wegner..... Treasurer
Randy Falstad..... Secretary
Sandi Cihlar, Wes Ebert,
Russ Graveen, Sheryl Hemp,
Greg Huber, Kevin Keffe,
Joe Wachtel, Karen Graff

WEB SITE

The latest information on the Friends of Rib Mountain can be found on our web site:
www.ribmountain.org

Facebook ... @ribfriends

For membership information:
info@ribmountain.org