



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



Annual Report to Membership

Fall 2022

FRIENDS OF RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK Annual Meeting and Dinner

Monday, November 14, 2022

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

**In the Friends Gathering Space
at Rib Mountain State Park**



FROM THE PRESIDENT

How the time flies! Here we are again approaching the year's end planning the Annual meeting and I'm summarizing improvements on the Timeline of our website. If you're new to the Friends, welcome!

We'd like to make a special acknowledgement of the **Wausau Kiwanis Club** for their 100th anniversary! If you don't know, they have a long history of contributions; we have them to thank in large part for bringing to the park the observation tower, the amphitheater, some historical land acquisitions, and more. Rib Mountain would not be as you know it today without their contributions over the century!

Friends of Rib Mountain 2022 accomplishments include nature programs, nature hikes, concerts, as well as improvements in partnership with the Friends of WI State Parks via their Incentive Grant. This includes a new bench near the entrance to the Ranger/Visitor Station, an animal soft pelt display, a 3D wood carving of Rib Mountain, and updating the trails 3-panel display at the concessions area. We also applied for the Wisconsin DNR's Stewardship Grant for some amphitheater

(Continued on page 3)

PARK REPORT

Well, it was nice to finally see a "normal" year since the pandemic took hold when I came to the property in 2020. While things have slowed down a bit visitation-wise since 2020 and 2021, park attendance numbers are still trending upward overall. This is a statewide trend, and many state parks are seeing much higher numbers of campers well into the fall. While many parks suffered from a lack of hiring candidates and seasonal staff, this fortunately wasn't the case for Rib. We had a great seasonal crew this year and were able to get a considerable amount of maintenance items accomplished.

This year we were able to accomplish a major capital development-funded project that should make a huge improvement to winter access, safety, and cut down on maintenance for staff. The landscape rock (which over time filled in with weeds) that was used to fill in between the paved pathway and State Park Road was dug out, replaced with soil and seeded into grass. This will allow maintenance staff to use a riding mower to cut this 1.5-mile section instead of weed whipping the entire stretch, but more importantly will allow use of a skid steer snowblower attachment to clear snow in the winter. This will keep snow piled from the road and path to a minimum, allowing for the truck plow to get through once snow piles up and ultimately allow the well-used walking path to stay much more snow and ice-free come winter, keeping more walkers off of the road.

We have seen lots of movement on the master planning process this year as well, and the master plan is on pace to be completed within a couple of months. Most recently, the draft master plan came out and the department is in the process of reviewing the public's comments on it. The updated plan is

likely to bring some change to the park, possibilities including an expansive mountain bike trail system which connects to Nine-Mile County Forest, a multi-use trail encircling the mountain, a ski hill expansion, among other recreational uses. Of course, our current staffing and resources alone at the park do not support many of these changes, so partnerships and/or increased staffing and a larger budget will be necessary before some of these recreational opportunities can be viable. There is no denying though, Rib Mountain is a huge community asset which makes this state park very unique. It's the department's goal to capitalize on this and increase the park's value as a year-round community asset. It will be interesting and exciting to see what the next year could bring with the new master plan and increased community partnerships.



Bayli Christorf, Property Manager
parkoffice@ribmountain.org



Popular programs **Snake Discovery** and **Up-Close with Raptors** return in 2023 thanks to a grant from **Cellcom GreenGifts**



SMOKEY BEAR VISITS RIB MOUNTAIN

Rib Mountain State Park has become a regular stop for Smokey Bear in the past several years. Thanks to the efforts this year of park manager **Bayli Christorf**, the Wisconsin DNR has provided the park with our own Smokey kit, and he is now a regular resident at Rib.

Of course, Smokey hibernates in the winter season. Once the weather warms for the summer season he will sometimes be spotted in the park, and always needs a friend to help him make his way around the park.

Thanks go out to volunteers **Woody Tischer** (see if you can find him in the picture above), **Milo Holdhusen**, **Nolan Mudler**, **Dana Watt**, **Jeanine Knapp**, **Dean Kannenberg**, **Phil Bloemsma**, **Karen Graff** and others for helping Smokey bring smiles and lessons on fire safety to park visitors of all ages.

Members interested in occasionally helping with Smokey can contact Bayli in the park office or leave your contact info at the Top of the Rib concession stand.

Friends of Rib Mountain State Park, Inc. Summary of Unrestricted Operating Activity January 1 - December 31, 2021

	ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET
Revenue:		
Donations:		
FWSP Incentive Grant	0.00	500.00
Program attendees	0.00	100.00
Concert sponsors	0.00	3,250.00
Concert attendees	0.00	400.00
Snowshoe attendees	0.00	400.00
Project specific - Playground	44,000.00	44,300.00
Other	712.35	300.00
Total donations	44,712.35	49,250.00
Memberships	1,240.00	1,000.00
Net Endowment	4,534.58	1,000.00
Interest	42.73	25.00
Top of the Rib (net Foundation 5%)	5,645.06	5,630.00
Total revenues	57,174.72	58,805.00
Expenditures:		
Donations:		
Playground	69,797.73	72,900.00
Programs at the Park	0.00	2,000.00
Other	2,405.29	200.00
Total donations	72,203.02	75,100.00
Activities:		
Concerts	0.00	3,500.00
Snowshoe hikes	0.00	400.00
Board & membership meetings	80.74	250.00
Other	49.89	150.00
Administrative assistant	0.00	0.00
Membership contact/incentives	188.00	300.00
Marketing (website, logo, newsletter)	228.94	500.00
Insurance	719.00	750.00
Licenses/fees/dues	89.00	100.00
Concession stand hardware/software	0.00	2,500.00
Miscellaneous	27.30	175.00
Total expenditures	73,565.89	83,725.00
Net revenues vs expenditures	(16,391.17)	(26,820.00)
Balances as of 12/31/2021		
Savings	30,689.90	
Checking	2,723.20	
CD	0.00	
Total of above accounts	33,413.10	
Uncommitted	23,916.05	

WILDFLOWER, BIRDING AND HISTORY HIKES

The Friends sponsor numerous hikes throughout the year, and we thank **Karen Graff**, **Wes Ebert**, **Myles Hurlburt**, and **Steve**

Kaiser for taking groups through the park, typically on a Saturday morning, on Wildflower, Birding and History hikes.

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.

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"

(Continued from page 1)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

improvements but were only provided a partial award so we plan to try again for 2023. We hope you were able to make it to one or more of the 2022 events, and will enjoy the improvements for many years to come.

As you likely know, the DNR has been revising the Master Plan for Rib Mountain State Park and there were a few open house presentations in 2022. I hope you took the opportunity, while it was there, to submit your input either in person or by the other means they provided. There are many people and organizations who make use of Rib Mountain and I thank you for participating in the process that will shape the future of the Park.

Thanks also go out to those who have served the group so faithfully such as our former long-time treasurer **Scott Wegner, Kevin Keeffe** with the park concession stand and concerts, the **Board of Directors** (past and present), those who stepped into new roles for the Friends, **Bayli Christorf** and the **park staff** for all that we collaborate on, and to the **Friends members** for your support. We couldn't do this without all of you!

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

TOP OF THE RIB CONCESSION STAND

Thanks to **Russ and Theresa Graveen, Mary Friederichs, Enid Krueger**, and other volunteers for helping reopen the park concession stand for 2022 after two mostly closed seasons. We have been building back the inventory of Rib Mountain shirts and hats, fun and educational kids toys, and parky gifts and books. Watch next season for Rib Mountain stickers newly designed by **Ally** of the park staff. You'll also find the snacks, beverages, ice cream and popcorn you've come to know and love.

Thanks also go out to **Michael Dreher, Nathan Dreher, Ella Keeffe** and **Nolan Mudler** for their fantastic jobs in welcoming park visitors at the concession stand.



Gift items are available in the park office when the stand is closed, in another of the many cooperative arrangements the Friends have with park staff.

We look forward to seeing you next season...

 **Kevin Keeffe** ribtop@ribmountain.org

Membership Form

FRIENDS OF RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Board of Directors

Steve Kaiser President
Christopher Ecke President-Elect
Randy Falstad Past President
Marty Reinhart..... Treasurer
Randy Falstad Secretary

Sandi Cihlar, Wes Ebert, Karen Graff
Russ Graveen, Sheryl Hemp,
Greg Huber, Kevin Keeffe,
Joe Wachtel

WEB SITE

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

www.ribmountain.org

on Facebook... [@ribfriends](https://www.facebook.com/ribfriends)

For membership information:

info@ribmountain.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Forever Friend	\$2500 Annually*
	*min 3yr commit
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership	1 year \$100.00
	2 years \$175.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Membership	1 year \$100.00
	Includes a certificate, window decal, and annual park admission sticker.
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	1 year \$20.00
	2 years \$30.00
Please list family members:	

<input type="checkbox"/> 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

Assistance

Event setup & cleanup
 Meal/food preparation
 Parking/direct traffic

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



FRIENDS OF
RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

149801 State Park Road
Wausau, WI 54401
www.ribmountain.org



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.

Concerts in the Clouds

Concerts in the Clouds were finally back for 2022 after a two season absence. Two events took place (June 25 and July 16) and another was canceled (Aug 13) due to weather.

We look forward to seeing you in 2023 for these tentative dates:

Sat, June 24
Sat, July 15 or 22
Sat, August 12

*As always,
thanks to sponsors:*

Bone and Joint Clinic

*Marathon County
Farm Bureau*

For 2023 The Friends will again sponsor the popular
Rib Mt State Park...

Snowshoe Hikes

The Friends invite you to explore Rib Mountain State Park on snowshoes at our 2023 Candlelight hikes planned, weather permitting, for two Saturdays - **January 7** and **February 4**, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. (flashlights and headlamps suggested)

We will have hot chocolate, hot cider, and special goodies, as well as marshmallows to roast around the campfire. Start your hike at the new Friends Gathering Space, just past the Park office. Some snowshoes are available to borrow but we suggest you bring your own snowshoes if you have them.

There is no cost to participate, though donations to cover costs are welcome. A park annual or daily admission sticker is required. Parking is limited, so please consider carpooling if possible.

Thanks to our Snowshoe trail grooming crew: **Randy Falstad, Russ Graveen, Christopher Ecke** and **Bill Kolb**.

For more info or if weather threatens, check the Friends' website at www.ribmountain.org, or call 715-842-2522.

 **Karen Graff & Nancy Stencil, Co-Chairs**