



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

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Annual Report to Membership

Fall 2020



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
and Dinner**
Monday, September 14, 2020
5:30 – Social Hour and Dinner
6:00 – Meeting
In the Amphitheater
at Rib Mountain State Park



FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a year it has been for all of us. And it started so well! Our year started out with two great snowshoe hikes and lots of hikers. It was a great volunteer effort, under the direction of Board Member Karen Graff, with lots of help from membership and even members of the WI River Wolves Hockey Team. It was estimated that we had 500 hikers on those two nights. During this same time period, another of our Board members, Russ Graveen, took on the repair the Park's snowblower, something that would not have gotten fixed without his expertise, and something that was definitely needed with all the snow that would fall over the winter. The Board, with help from a "New User" grant, had the Park brochure translated into the Hmong language in an effort to get new users into the Park. The Master Planning process for the Park began with meetings in which many of our members participated in. Our Work/Play Earth Day was planned, summer programs and concerts were all scheduled.

Then things came to a screeching halt. Obviously, I am referring to Covid-19 and how it shut down all of our lives. All of our concerts and programs had to be cancelled. Volunteers were restricted from working in the Park. Our Concession stand could not open., Totally unrelated to Covid, we lost one of our long serving Board Members, Gene Musolf, who passed away in March. He was a great source of knowledge to the Board and is missed.

On a positive note, however, your Board has continued to function and plan for the future. We have continued to meet, always outside and with social distancing protocols. We are planning for 2021 and with a little luck will have our concerts and programs back. We are already working on

(Continued on page 3)

PARK REPORT

A warm welcome to our new Park Manager...
Bayli Christorf grew up on a dairy farm outside of Independence, WI, where her family still farms. Growing up outside sparked her interest in the outdoor world. She graduated from UW – River Falls majoring in Conservation with a minor in Soil Science. After college, she started her career in the Parks and Rec Program working seasonally at Kinnickinnic and Willow River State Parks. She quickly developed an affinity to Wisconsin State Parks and obtained a full time position a year later where she worked as a Ranger at Big Bay State Park on Madeline Island. Since then, she's gotten experience at multiple properties, helping to cover vacancies for short summer stints and working at Devil's Lake, Wildcat Mountain, and Black River State Forest. Whenever her time and money allow, Bayli can be found bowhunting at her home farm or on a trip out west to hunt, hike, camp and explore. She also loves to run, kayak, shed hunt, and cook pure maple syrup in the spring.
Bayli is thrilled to become the Park Manager at Rib Mountain and has easily enjoyed her time here so far (although it hasn't started snowing yet), and is becoming attached to this beautiful property very quickly!

Bayli Christorf, Property Manager
parkoffice@ribmountain.org

For 2021 The Friends tentatively plan to again sponsor the popular Rib Mt State Park...

Snowshoe Hikes

The Friends invite you to explore Rib Mountain State Park on snowshoes at our 2021 Candlelight hikes, tentatively planned for two Saturdays one in January and another in February, weather permitting. 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 or if weather threatens, check the Friends' website at www.ribmountain.org, or call 715-842-2522.

Karen Graff, Jodi and Shawn Morgan, Co-Chairs

**Concerts
in the Clouds**

Concerts for 2020 were canceled due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic

We expect 2021 Concert dates to be:

Sat, June 26

Sat, July 17

Sat, August 7

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
- Community Foundation of North Central WI Community Enhancement Grant
- State of Wisconsin Stewardship Grants
- Connexus Association
- Ed & Micki Koth Fund
- Covantage Cares
- Dave and Gloria Carlson
- Marty and Laurie Reinhart
- Bill Bursaw
- Anonymous Donor
- Anonymous Top of the Rib concessions customers
- Anonymous Concerts in the Clouds patrons and supporters
- Bone and Joint Clinic
- Marathon County Farm Bureau Federation
- Granite Peak Ski Area
- Advanced Mailing Technology
- Mid Wisconsin Beverage

Families who helped in playground planning:

- Angie Conklin
- Liesle Dille and Bennett Markevitch
- Leslie and Ella Keeffe
- Julia and Troy Salzman
- William and Abby Wogernese



FRIENDS PLAYGROUND PROJECT

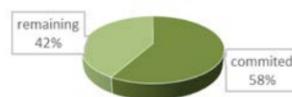
Currently the Friends organization is raising funds for a reconstruction of the playground in the upper park area near the observation tower and Friends concession shop. The existing equipment, installed over 40 years ago had fallen into disrepair, and consequently much of it has been removed. The new playground will provide for younger children a safe and enjoyable alternative to other park play options.

The design chosen will fit entirely in the existing playground footprint, with optional future expansion just to the north. The design and placement of equipment will take advantage of the site's Northward view of the Wausau area, and thinning of some vegetation will further enhance the view for playground users.

Installation is expected early next season, and Friends members will

have the opportunity to contribute time and energy to this exciting park addition.

Playground fundraising
Goal - \$72,900



Donations can be made out to "Friends of Rib Mt" with a note on your check for "playground", which can be mailed to:

Friends of Rib Mountain State Park
149801 State Park Road
Wausau WI 54401

For more information contact:
Kevin Keeffe at 715-848-1191
or kevin@ribmountain.org

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, Inc. Summary of Available Funds As of 8/31/2020	
Savings	38,436.41
Checking	623.90
CD	25,602.54
Community Foundation - Endowment	36,223.40
Undeposited funds	0.00
Total of above accounts	100,886.25
Committed to endowment (Community Foundation)	
Funds at Community Foundation	36,223.40
Funds to be transferred to Foundation	0.00
Total committed to endowment	36,223.40
(36,223.40)	
Committed for Playground Equipment:	
Stewardship Grant (FR3-18-10)	0.00
FRMSP share	5,000.00
FRMSP share (to get to total of \$20,000)	0.00
Donations	23,612.76
Expenditures to date	0.00
Net remaining committed	28,612.76
(28,612.76)	
Committed for event tent:	
FWSP New Users grant	215.00
FWSP Incentive grant	183.20
FRMSP share	366.41
Expenditures to date	(732.81)
Return of excess funds	(31.80)
Net remaining committed	0.00
(0.00)	
Committed for literature translation:	
FWSP New Users grant	500.00
FRMSP share	479.62
Expenditures to date	(959.24)
Return of excess funds	(20.38)
Net remaining committed	0.00
0.00	
Committed for signage:	
FWSP Incentive Grant	1,000.00
FRMSP share	1,500.00
Expenditures to date	0.00
Net remaining committed	2,500.00
(2,500.00)	
Needed to fund remaining current year operating budget	(995.17)
Net available (uncommitted)	32,554.92

(Continued from page 1)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

scheduling our snowshoe hikes. In addition, we are discussing obtaining equipment for a groomed trail to allow the public use throughout the winter. An unexpected positive of the pandemic has been that Park use is up. People are looking for things to do and hiking in the outdoors has become an activity for many to safely do. We hope that with the introduction of the Park to many new users, that they will continue to enjoy the Park as the pandemic subsides. The Friends of Rib Mountain hope that we can contribute to maintaining the quality experience Park users currently enjoy.

On a personal note, this will be my last annual meeting as President. Steve Kaiser, the President elect, will be taking over as President in January. Many of you know Steve as he is both the leader for monthly hikes in the Park and he leads the Web Committee that revamped our social media presence. He is going to be an excellent President and I look forward to his leading the Friends Group forward for the next two years.

Randy Falstad, *President*
president@ribmountain.org

FRIENDS COMMITTEE WORK

Hike Committee - The 2020 hikes didn't happen the way we had planned, with most hikes getting cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic... but that will make them all the more enjoyable in 2021, right?! Hikers have had great fun on the wildflower, history, ecology, fall colors, autumn luminary, and group hikes in the past, and the hike committee has had fun considering new events to offer. We hope to resume these fantastic events soon!

Web Committee - The Friends Board recently heard from Ned Westman of Stettin, who offered us a look at some wonderful Rib Mountain history stories and photos. We are looking over the material and potentially may post some of it on the Friends of Rib Mountain website. Before placing the information on our website we will set it up on a test web page for Mr Westman and board members to review and approve before we publish to the public. We welcome other submissions of material that might be of interest.

Steve Kaiser, *Vice President*
vp@ribmountain.org

Membership Form

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

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| Hiking Trails | Special Events Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail development | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer concerts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive species control | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoe hikes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt a Trail Segment | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall festival |
| Park Concessions | Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counter assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gift item merchandising | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature development |
| Firewood | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity/promotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cut, split & stack | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail map & guide |
| Assistance to park staff | Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership recruitment |
| Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event setup & cleanup | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meal/food preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking/direct traffic | |

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

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

Board of Directors

Randy Falstad President
Steve Kaiser..... Vice President
Scott Wegner.....Treasurer
Karen Graff.....Secretary

Sandi Cihlar, Wes Ebert,
Russ Graveen, Sheryl Hemp,
Greg Huber, Kevin Keeffe,
Dennis Roziak, Joe Wachtel

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