

Mountain Times

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

Vol. 4 Issue 2

Spring 2005

From the President

Another busy summer season for Rib Mountain is rapidly approaching. We have a great series of family programs coming to the park. I hope you will be able to take in as many events as possible.

One of the highlights for the summer includes our July Concert in the Clouds. This year our committee is excited to be bringing the great jazz vocalist, **Janet Planet**, to the amphitheater on Saturday, July 16. Additionally, the ever-popular **Raptor Education Group** from Antigo will be back. Having entertained a standing-room only crowd last year, the **REGI** will present the **Raptors of Wisconsin** program on Saturday, July 9.

In addition to warm weather, summer brings construction. The lower stretch of Park Road, from the stop light on County R up to Violet Lane, is scheduled to be reconstructed starting in April. The DNR did a land swap with the Town of Rib Mountain, giving the Town the park's right of way up to Violet, in exchange for some land near the new Doepke Park. The Town will now be handling the road maintenance for that section. As part of this change, a new official park entrance will be created at Violet Lane. There will be new park signs at both Violet Lane and County R. While the construction may cause some detours into the park from time to time, the park will always be open. The work is scheduled to be done near the end of June.

The DNR made a preliminary presentation of the proposed master plan for the park at the Friends last board meeting in February. There are some significant changes being considered for the public areas of the park at the top of the hill—too many for me to list in this newsletter. There will be a public presentation of the proposed plan tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 2, at 6 PM, at the Park Inn (the former Howard Johnson's). You will be able to view the detailed plans of the proposal and you will be allowed to make your comments known to the DNR at that time. I understand that information will also be available on the DNR website. We will post a link to the site on the Friends website, www.ribmountain.org

Happy Hiking.

Steve Engler, President
president@ribmountain.org
715-432-7933



Park Clean-Up Day Saturday, May 7

The Friends of Rib Mountain would like to help spruce up the park with a clean-up day on Saturday, May 7, from 9 AM until noon. Plan to meet at the maintenance garage where we will hand out trash bags, rakes, or other appropriate tools.



We will have areas of the park designated for litter pick-up or for light trail maintenance. Bring a pair of gloves if you have some. Refreshments will be provided. Contact **Steve Engler** at 432-7933 or park ranger, **Bill Bursaw**, at 842-2522 for more information.

Rib Mountain Teacher Study Guide — Revision and Reprinting —

While the rock has not changed much, many things in and around the park have changed in the years since our Teacher Study Guide was first published. **Sandy Stoneman**, one of the original developers of the guide, has been coordinating an update of changes in the ecological data, maps, and other park information found in the publication.

The Teacher Study Guide is designed to provide educational materials and lesson plans for area grade school teachers who bring classes to the park. Parents interested in helping their children learn more about the ecology of the park will also find the guide very helpful.

The new guide should be available for distribution in time for fall classes. There is a small fee to help cover the cost of the publication.

The Friends would also like to say thank you to the **Judd S. Alexander Foundation** for their generous donation to make this revision and second printing possible.

Park Boundary Marked



Park Ranger, **Bill Bursaw**, reports that he has been working to re-mark and post the property boundaries around the park. With several additions to the park over the past few years, the boundaries may not always have been clear. People who enter the park from adjoining properties and "off-trail" hikers now know when they are on or leave park property.

Snowshoe Hike Summary

With lots of snow in the early winter, it looked like we would have no problems holding our snowshoe hike on February 12. However, an unusual streak of spring-like weather threatened our event. As luck would have it, we had a fantastic night for snowshoeing, thanks to our trees and our elevation. **Nancy Stencil**, stepped forward to coordinate this year's hike and did a great job! Helping Nancy set up the hike were **Jay Rolfson**, **Jim Jacques** and his friend **Luke**. **Karen Graff**, **Sandi Cihlar**, **Sheryl Hemp**, **Sue Engler**, **Greg Huber**, and **Nancy Stencil** all brought up goodies to eat in front of the fire after the hike. While some people may have stayed away thinking we didn't have snow, about 75 people came up to the hike and had a great time.

Members Needed

If you have not already done so, please be sure to send in your membership renewal. Members are vital to the success of our organization. Memberships can be sent to:

Friends of Rib Mountain
c/o Penny Anderson
P.O. Box 1936
Wausau, WI 54402

If you have already renewed, thank you. Why not pass the membership form on to a friend.

Summer Programs for 2005



Universe in the Park
Friday, July 8
9 PM at the Amphitheater

The extremely popular outreach program of the Department of Astronomy at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, "UitP" believes that the best environment in which to learn about astronomy is outside under dark skies. "UitP" begins just after sunset with a 20-30 minute talk and slide show about astronomy, a broad overview of astronomy or recent astronomical news such as the discovery of new solar systems and the latest results from the Hubble Space Telescope.

At the conclusion of the talk when the sky is dark, they set up a moderate aperture (8"-10") telescope and provide the park visitors the opportunity to view whatever astronomical objects are available. Amateur astronomers from the Wausau area often attend these presentations and allow visitors to look through their telescopes.

Raptors of Wisconsin

Saturday, July 9
7 PM in the Enclosed Shelter

Well-known wildlife rehabilitation expert, Marge Gibson's, **Raptor Education Group, Inc.**, of Antigo will again provide an up-close look at some of the majestic birds of Wisconsin. Eagles, owls, turkey vultures, and hawks will be the stars in an educational program for the whole family.



Mark your calendar and plan to attend these two wonderful Summer Programs at Rib Mountain State Park.

Concession Stand News

A sure sign of spring—the viewers are back on the observation deck and the soda machine will soon be stocked.

It won't be long before the concession stand will be ready to go. Minor renovation is taking place to make the stand a bit more functional. The official opening is Memorial Day weekend, but look for the stand to open as weather and staff permits.

Regular hours will be 11 AM until 5 PM, Memorial Day through Labor Day, and weekends during the fall color season. As always, anyone who is interested in helping at the stand is welcome. No experience necessary. Contact concession manager, **Kevin Keeffe**, at 848-1191 for more information. Remember, if you volunteer over 20 hours at the stand, you get a free park sticker for next year.

Master Plan Public Meeting Notice

Thursday, June 2 from 6–9 PM

The Park Inn, Hwy 51 and NN

The DNR is putting the finishing touches on its proposed Draft Master Plan for Rib Mountain State Park. This will be your opportunity to see what the future of Rib Mountain might look like and to express your opinion. The meeting time and place is subject to change. Please watch the Wausau Daily Herald for more information or contact Park Ranger, **Bill Bursaw**, at 842-2522 for more information.

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