

Mountain Times

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


Vol. 5 Issue 1

Winter 2006

From the President

As we start another new year for the Friends of Rib Mountain, I look forward to one thing in particular, the road construction at Hwy. N, 51, and Park Road is done. Getting in and out of the park is a breeze. That's the good news. However with Wisconsin having only two seasons, winter and construction, there is more construction ahead for Rib Mountain.

This spring, Marathon County will begin the replacement of their communications tower. The existing tower is old and in need of repair, plus it does not meet the needs of mandated new communications equipment that Marathon County needs. The tower will be relocated from its existing site, just northeast of the observation tower, to a site near the existing enclosed shelter. This will result in the loss of the shelter. Both the DNR and Friends would have preferred to had the tower relocated out of the park or included on the ECB tower. FCC regulations, technical issues, costs to Marathon County taxpayers, park considerations, and many other issues all factored into the new location. The county has pledged not to repeat the problems that occurred with the ECB tower.

 If you were not able to attend the October banquet, you missed another wonderful dinner prepared by **Karen Graff**. As always, thank you Karen for all of your work.

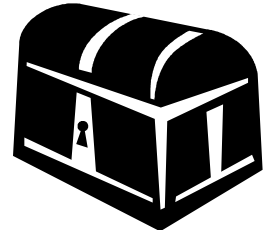
The October meeting brought one change to our Board of Directors. **Nancy Stencil** has joined the Board, replacing **Barb Roberts**. We welcome Nancy and look forward to her input into the organization and give a big thank you to **Barb Roberts** for her years of service on the Board. We know Barb will continue to be a loyal friend to the park.


I want to give a big thanks to everyone who helped out cutting firewood last fall. We had two beautiful days and got a good deal of wood into the shed. Helping out were:

- **Ben Preisig**
- **Scott Wegner**
- **Penny Anderson**
- **Tim Rock**
- **Lauren Hambrook**



The family of a gentleman who worked with the CCC at Rib Mountain in the 1930s offered the Friends a storage trunk with CCC memorabilia. I want to thank **Bill Bursaw** for all of his work in helping the Friends acquire this bit of history.



 Don't forget the candlelight snowshoe hike on January 28. **Nancy Stencil** reports that there is a nice base of snow on the hill. Plan on coming up for an enjoyable winter walk in the woods.

Happy Hiking,

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

Master Plan Approved

The new master plan for Rib Mountain was finalized and approved by the Natural Resources Board at their December meeting. The finished plan will be printed and available at the park for those who would like to view the complete document.

With the completion of the plan, Rib Mountain will see some major changes over the next few years. The priority projects to be completed in the first few years will be reconstruction of the fresh water system (the existing system has been shut down for several years), construction of a new public contact building and a new shelter building, repair and up-grade of the park roads, and construction of a walking path parallel to the road.

Longer-range plans call for the removal of the existing campground and converting that area for day use, the addition of trails and walk-in camping in the 3M land purchase area, improvements and landscaping in the area of the north parking lot for more picnic and day use area, and to improve traffic flow. The plan also calls for the construction of a two-story nature and education center and public meeting room overlooking the south side of the hill.

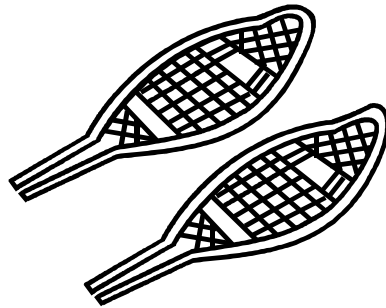
With the plan including a large nature center, the Friends will be reviewing their plans for a nature center addition to the contact station. One option will be to change the focus of that addition to the geology and history of the park and the Wausau area.

Teacher's Study

The second edition of the Rib Mountain Teacher's Study guide will be at the printer this week and will be available soon. Revisions to assure accuracy took longer than anticipated, but will result in a more accurate publication.

The guides will be available at the park for area teachers, youth group leaders, parents, or anyone who would like to learn more about the natural world found on Rib Mountain. The Friends thank **Sandy Stoneman** for all of her efforts in this second edition.

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike



Mark your calendar for:

Saturday, January 28
6:30 – 8:30 PM
Rib Mountain State Park
(enclosed shelter)

Snowshoes will be available for a \$3 donation. Coffee, hot chocolate, and a warm fire will be available.

Soaring with Eagles

Working on his Eagle Scout rank, **Dan Conrad**, will be adding seat backs to some of the seats at the park amphitheater this spring. The seat backs will add to the comfort of people attending events at the amphitheater. Dan will be providing the labor and seeking donations for supplies. The Friends have agreed to provide money to fabricate and purchase the mounting brackets for the seats. We wish Dan well on his project.

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your annual membership to the Friends of Rib Mountain. In order to cover the increasing cost of postage, printing, and insurance, an increase in dues was approved at the October annual meeting. We are also offering the option of renewing for two years at a reduced rate. As a thank you for your membership, you will receive a Friends window sticker and a card good for discounts at the concession stand next summer.

We have printed a new membership brochure and application for 2006. We have also created a supporting membership level that will entitle you to an annual park admission sticker.

Please use our new membership brochure and application (enclosed with this mailing) for your renewal.

Attention!

YOU MAY BE PAID FOR 2006. Some newer members may be paid for 2006. Please look at your address label. If you are paid for 2006, it will indicate it on the label.

Board of Directors

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Sheryl Hemp	Secretary	
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Bea Musolf	Nancy Stencil	Joe Wachtel

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