

MOUNTAIN TIMES

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

www.ribmountain.org

Vol. 8 Issue 2 Summer 2009

2009 Concerts in the Clouds

All shows begin at 6 PM in the amphitheater. The only charge is a park admission



Saturday, June 20

Randy Sabien and
Corey Carlson

Wisconsin's favorite fiddler brings his swing, jazz and blues to the Rib Mountain amphitheater and teams up with one of the favorite songwriters of Bayfield's Big Top Chautauqua for an evening of music.



Saturday, July 18

The Wausau Symphony and Concert Band

The return of a favorite: Classical and contemporary music performed against the spectacular vista of the Wisconsin River Valley.



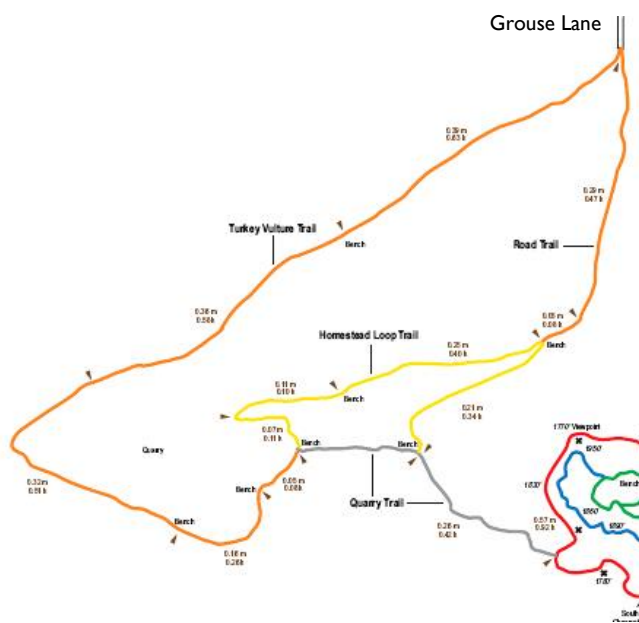
Saturday, August 1

Dangerous Folk

Milwaukee based folk trio "Dangerous Folk" performs classic folk music memories for the over 50 "boomer" audience and for younger people as well. These are not "protest songs"...rather it is music that affirms the positive message that shapes our lives. The power and honesty of these songs span the generations.




HIKE THE NEW QUARRY TRAIL THIS SUMMER



In the summer of 2008 the Friends started work on a new set of trails to open up the former 3M property to park visitors. A new quarter mile trail was constructed to connect the old Red Trail to the quarry area and over two miles of old logging and quarry roads were cleaned up and designated as trails. Most of the work was done by UW–Stevens Point students funded through a grant from the Wisconsin Stewardship Program, and by a number of volunteers. There still was a lot of work to do before we could say the trail was done, so an additional Stewardship Grant was obtained for 2009 to finish the project.

Laying wood chips on the trail, installing trail signs and benches still needs to be done. Last week, park employee **Bob Sims**, and volunteer **Adam Manteuffel** installed a bridge over an area of the trail that can be very wet and soggy. This was the last area that needed a lot of work.

We continued our working relationship with UW–Stevens Point this winter when seven interpretive panels on the quarry were designed by UWSP students. These panels will be manufactured this summer and should be installed in the fall. Later this summer we hope to have a grand opening to officially dedicate the trail.

While there still may be work to do, the trail is open for hiking and it is a great hike. Full color trail maps that include the quarry area have been printed and are available at the park. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help finish off the trail can contact me for more information.  **Steve Engler** steve@ribmountain.org 298-7933

CONTROLLING GARLIC MUSTARD ON RIB MT



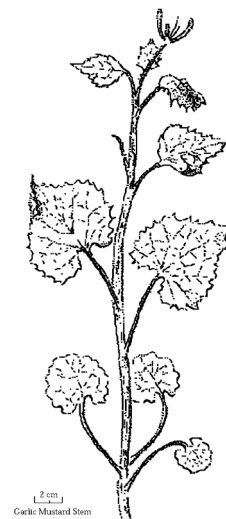
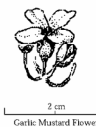
What does it look like? Garlic mustard is a biennial, meaning it blooms in its second year, so it is best pulled in the fall of its first year or spring of its second year. It is just now beginning to bloom. It is the only white blossom in the spring woods besides trillium. The blossoms are small and cross-shaped. The leaves are heart-shaped and have a distinctive garlic smell to them. Second year plants can be anywhere from a couple of inches to over a foot tall.

See: dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/garlic.htm

How can we prevent its spread? Garlic mustard is usually carried into parks on the shoes of visitors. Be sure to clean all dirt off your shoes after you visit one park before going to another.

Where is it? On the yellow trail (in three patches: a small area right near the road, the mother colony down a bit further, and another area where the gray trail branches off), on both sides of the road just where the guard rail begins as you head out of the park, and a couple of plants at the parking area where the utility line clearing crosses the road. These areas are under control (with continued vigilance for the next decade).

Why should we worry? If a single plant is allowed to bloom, it can produce thousands of seeds that will spread easily and remain in the soil for up to five years. If you see any garlic mustard, please let me or park ranger **Bill Bursaw** know it's exact location. If you do pull it, don't just leave it lay on the ground. It will easily re-root, and even if it is set onto a rock, the flowers can still set seeds. If this invasive is allowed to grow unchecked, it can take over the forest floor and destroy all native wildflowers.



 **Wes Ebert** wes@ribmountain.org

MEET OUR NEW PARK NATURALIST

Ann Lindner

Hello, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Ann Lindner and I am the Park Naturalist for the summer here at Rib Mountain State Park. I am a student at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point majoring in Environmental Education with only one more year to complete before I graduate in May 2010. I am very excited to be given this opportunity this summer - I can't think of a better job than being outdoors teaching young and old alike about the environment.




On a personal level, I am married with two boys, ages 6 and 8. We have lived in Stevens Point for 11 years and aside from spending time with my boys as much as I can and teaching them about the outdoors, I also enjoy spending time with my horse, hiking, biking and am getting into gardening. My family has been very supportive of me going back to school and is looking forward to attending my programs!

So far for the summer we have programs being offered by the Northwoods Wildlife Center out of Minocqua and the Raptor Education Group from Antigo. I also hope to offer programs from a herpetologist and an astronomy group. As for myself, using the Rib Mountain State Park Teachers Study Guide as a reference, I plan to do a geology hike, a tree hike

and identification and talks about birds and mammals found at Rib Mountain.

I look forward to this opportunity and look forward to meeting many of you this summer on top of the mountain!

 **Ann Lindner** naturalist@ribmountain.org

NORTHWOODS WILDLIFE CENTER

Sunday, June 21 1:00pm

The Northwoods Wildlife Center of Minocqua will bring it's educational program on nature and wildlife to our Rib Mountain Amphitheater.

Join us for this free program at 1:00 p.m.

RAPTORS OF WISCONSIN

Saturday, August 8 6:00 PM

The amphitheater serves as the perfect backdrop to get up close and personal with some of Wisconsin's largest birds including turkey vultures, owls, and hawks.

Presented by the
Raptor Education Group of Antigo

FRIENDS OF RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

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Nancy Stencil Secretary

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Russ Graveen, Steve Engler,
Greg Huber, Kevin Keffe,
Debra Mech, Bea Musolf
and Joe Wachtel

Web Site

The latest information on the Friends of Rib Mountain can be found on our new and up-to-date web site at:
www.ribmountain.org


For membership information:
info@ribmountain.org

TOP OF THE RIB CONCESSION STAND

Thanks to **Sue Engler** and **Mary Friederichs** the Top of the Rib has a fresh new look for 2009. Lots of new gift items, cool Rib Mountain T-shirts and Sweats, toys for the kids, as well as the snacks, beverages, ice cream and popcorn you've come to know and love. Stop by when you're in the park - I think you'll be impressed. Say hello to **Ben** and **Zeru**, our summer interns behind the counter.

Volunteers are always welcome, especially on holidays and on weekends in the fall (our busiest time of year). Two or 3-hour shifts work out well. We are looking for extra help in the stand August 10 - 31 after one intern heads back to school.

We all look forward to seeing you on your next visit...

 **Kevin Keffe** kevin@ribmountain.org 848-1191


Volunteer Opportunities

...from our new volunteer coordinator **Kathi Zoern**

Volunteer opportunities available this summer include:

- Concession stand attendant, merchandising, and fix-up projects
- Exotic species removal
- Quarry trail work
- Cutting and splitting firewood
- Directing traffic and clean-up at the concerts
- Assisting DNR staff and Naturalist with projects and programs

Please consider spending a little time at the park to help make Rib Mountain State Park a special place.

 Contact **Kathi Zoern** at 675-8706 or volunteer@ribmountain.org

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RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
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Wausau, WI 54401

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Inside...

**2009 Concerts
in the Clouds**

Starting:
Saturday, June 20

with
**Randy Sabien and
Corey Carlson**

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

August Membership Meeting

We will have a general membership
and Board meeting

**Tuesday, August 4 - 6:00pm
Park Concession Stand**

6:00 - Potluck, cookout and social
7:00 - Meeting

Meet at the park concession stand for a fun evening with your fellow Friends members. Bring a dish to pass. The Friends will provide beverages and meat to grill.


From the President...

As you will read in this newsletter, we have an exciting summer of activities and programs at Rib Mountain State Park! I hope you will find time to attend a concert, hike a trail or participate in an educational program. We truly have something for everyone!

The Friends group is particularly proud of three projects—past, present and future. We have supported the development of the new quarry trail (see the article by Steve Engler) and we have brought a naturalist back to the park (see the article by Ann Linder). Our future project is the funding and building of a new park shelter to replace the one removed for the new Marathon County emergency services tower. Stay tuned for additional details on this project!

We have an amazing Friends group and a dedicated Friends Board. A special thanks at this time to **Debra Mech** for repainting the shower building in the park campground! We really do great work and make Rib Mountain a better place to spend time.

Hope to see you on the Mountain,

 **Sheryl Hemp**, President
shemp@ribmountain.org 842-5421