



Greenways Ink

www.focol.org/greenways

Winter 2009

“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.”

John Burroughs

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Fox Cities Greenways Annual Meeting

6:30 PM Thursday, January 29, 2009

**Heckrodt Wetland Reserve
1305 Plank Road, Menasha, WI**

Please join us for this annual event to celebrate progress made, to learn more about our future goals, and to meet the people who will work together toward achieving those goals. At our annual meeting, Brigit Brown, DNR State Trails Coordinator, will present an award from the Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference, and will also speak about Water Trails in Wisconsin. Additional speakers will be Candice Mortara and Pete Hensler representing Friends of the Fox. Their presentation will include information about local water trails and opportunities for involvement in refurbishing four portage trails along the Fox River. Exciting opportunities are emerging as plans for the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway take shape. Come to learn more about the potential of this unique environmental resource and to share your thoughts and ideas. We will also be holding a silent auction during the meeting to raise funds for future trail development. Please see the note on page two regarding our request for donated items for the auction.



Heckrodt Wetland Reserve is the new site for Fox Cities Greenways Annual Meeting

Our agenda will also include:

- Updates on projects and trails throughout the Fox Valley
- President's Annual Report
- Treasurer's Annual Report
- Introduction and election of new board members

*Please note that the location of the meeting is changed as compared with prior years. Refreshments will be provided by the Greenways Board.

**Board of Directors Meeting at
5:30 p.m., preceding Annual
Meeting**

President's Letter



Projects like the Trestle Trail would not be possible without your support

Thanks are due to our members and contributors, whose support and advocacy help our trail and greenway system to grow and prosper

As our annual meeting approaches once again, I would like to express my most sincere appreciation for the support, dedication, and inspiration I have received from the board members over the past two years.

Thanks are also due to our members and contributors, whose support and advocacy help our trail and greenway system to grow and prosper. In this time of economic uncertainty, alternative transportation choices

and readily accessible recreation amenities that serve our citizens' health and well being in a cost effective manner, are perhaps more important than ever. With your help, we will continue to work toward a safe, cohesive, greenway and trail system for the benefit of all. I hope you will participate with us in our annual meeting and the upcoming events of 2009.

Vickie

2008 Greenways Board Members

President Vickie Milde, Menasha

Action Vice President Dave Muench, Appleton

Secretary Peggy Cox, Appleton

Treasurer Roger Orlady & Vickie Kluge, Appleton

Newsletter Editor Pat Spiegelberg, Pickett

Webmaster William and Barbara Kelly, Appleton

Member Chair Dick Kendall, Appleton

At large: Tiffany Biedermann, Neenah

Alex Camacho, Appleton

Marilyn Gardner, Appleton

Sarah Higgins, Appleton

Jan Heifner, Appleton

Dave Johnson, Greenville

Mike Kading, Neenah

Patsy Kiesow, Neenah

Tom Walsh, Appleton

Val Wylie, Appleton

Jeff Theisen, Appleton

Our Board meetings are held about six times a year and are open to the public. Contact any member for date and location of upcoming meetings. Board members can be reached at www.focol.org/greenways

We Need Your Help!

Help us raise money for the trails by donating items for a silent auction to take place at the annual meeting. We need donations of nice clothing, art prints, gift certificates for restaurants or get-away lodging, and outdoor equipment, etc. Please contact Dave Muench at 920-422-1789 or e-mail ddmuench@new.rr.com by Jan. 24 to tell him what you can donate. Ask your friends if they can help with donations as well. Then please come and bid on some wonderful items!

Thanks to our 2008 Contributors

This list recognizes this years membership renewals and unrestricted contributions to Fox Cities Greenways. Thank you!

PATHFINDER	David and Ellen Kneip	Janet Moldenhauer	Helen Gray
Richard and Mary Joe Aylward	Greg and Sue Knudson	Dave Muench	Glenn and Joyce Hansen
TRAIL BLAZER	Randall Kreuscher	Marie and Brian Murton	Karen Heavener
Mark and Janis Heifner	Steve and Lee Macrander	James and Joh Perry	Mike Hendrick
WI Energy Foundation	Ellen and Todd Needham	Dale and Penny Schaber	Lila Hurst
CONSERVATOR	Roger Or lady	Gerald F. Stevens	Alexander Irvine
Theodore Galloway	Kent and Kristin Powley	Dale and Renee Torzala	Orlando and Janice Jansen
Bruce and Nancy Chudacoff	Tom and Pat Schinabeck	Brian and Lynn Tungate	Thomas Kees
Ironwood Foundation	Steve and Linda Stoll	Ron Vandervelden	Carole and Jerome Kern
Mike and Vickie Milde	Tom Walsh	Steve and Amy Wieckert	Bud and Dee Klister
Jeanna Owens	Walter and Beverly Wiekert	Valerie Wylie	Marjorie Koepke
Chris and Cate Rozewski	Dave Wuestenberg	Thomas and JeanneYoung	Janet Lange
Doug and Carla Salmon	Robert and Ruth Law	James and Clarice Belling	Richard Mason
Greg Schmidt	Walter and Amelia Rugland	GUARDIAN	Duane and Joan Matz
JS and MB Sensenbrenner	SENTINEL	Richard C. McCrory	Marshall and Michele Missner
Mark Steinmetz-Children's Dental	Nancy Brown Koeller	Dena Mleziva Calumet Co. Planning Dept.	Judy Owen
ADVOCATE	Ed and Linda Calhan	Capital Credit Union	Robert and Jeanne Pfister
Kim and Steve Schueller	Evergreen Credit Union	Cindy Carter	Mary Katherine Reed
Alcina Belter	Pat and Dick Filzen	Frank and Chris Church	Greta Rogers
B.G. Buchanan	Marlys and Peter Fritzell	Kathy and Chuck Collins	Fred Russler
Christopher and Denise Brandt	David Gerlach	Peggy Cox	Leah Schoenbohm
JA Egelhoff	Paul and Nancy Hoffman	East Central Planning	Kevin Schwanke
Robert and Barbara Holly Fox	Dick and Mary Kendall	Lyle and Elizabeth English	Aurelia Stamp
Richard and Karen Gosse	Vickie Kluge	Brian Feest	John and Deanna Swanson
Jeff and Maureen O'Hern Hahn	Becky or Richard Krumwiede	John and Sharon Fenlon	Marvin and Jayne Voissem
Leon Hartzeim	Thomas Lonsway	Merten and Christine Finkler	Ted and Virginia Wilcox
Bob and Mary Huber	Ronald Mason	Gregg and Tammy Fredericks	Clarence Wundrow
Leonard and Barbara Kachinski	Donald Merkes	Don Goen	
William and Barbara Kelly	Bob and Judy Mickelson	Thomas and Terri Jo Graverson	



A family enjoys a November walk on a portion of the Friendship Trail just west of the Trestle Trail in Fritse Park

Fox Cities Trail Up- dates

Friendship Trail

Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. continues to work with Calumet County, the Town of Harrison, Wisconsin DNR, and the City of Menasha to establish the Friendship Trail connection between Menasha and High Cliff State Park. Phase One will be from Lake Park Road to High Cliff State Park. A portion of this phase utilizes the Old Highway 114 frontage road and continues south on North Shore Road, using the recently widened and paved shoulders. The next segment, from North Shore Road to Firelane 12 (along the south side of the railroad right of way) has had engineering work done and construction could begin this spring or summer, pending agreement between

Calumet County and the Town of Harrison for trail maintenance.

A federal grant of \$350,000, awarded in 2005, is available to fund the Friendship Trail. Fox Cities Greenways will support this project by donating \$8,000 toward the local match for the grant and by working to raise the additional \$50,000 in matching funds that will be required. Negotiation with landowners for property acquisition for the remainder of the trail is ongoing and will determine the trail's final route. This trail is an essential link in the state trail system and continues to be one of our organization's primary goals.

Trail Between the Parks

Greenways, Friends of High Cliff State Park, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, Wisconsin DNR, National Park Service, Calumet County Park, High Cliff State Park, Calumet County Planning, the Village of Sherwood, and other local groups continue to work toward forming a trail connection between High Cliff State Park and Calumet County Park. Local governments in the area have passed resolutions in support of this trail and an informational meeting with landholders was held in September. The steering committee will continue communication with property owners to determine the most feasible corridor and assess acquisition possibilities. The intention is to begin with a simple pedestrian access route and continue to explore ways to expand access for additional users, such as bicyclists and equestrians, between the parks. The ultimate goal is to preserve the Niagara Escarpment's significant geological and environmental resources, while allowing residents and park visitors access to the breathtaking views and outdoor recreational activities of the area.

Menasha-Harrison Trail Link

The city of Menasha and the town of Harrison recently completed a joint trail project connecting Carpenter Street and Plank Road. This short trail link has both immediate and long term benefits for residents of both communities. First, it provides a direct link into Barker Farm Park for city residents south of Manitowoc Road. Town of Harrison residents to the east of Carpenter Street will also benefit from this trail link. Conceptual long term plans include extending an off road trail south of Carpenter Street to the Menasha Conservancy providing better access to this natural area for residents to enjoy. This project is a small but significant example of two municipalities working cooperatively for the good of both communities. This project is an important first step as further link-

ages are developed and the concept of a regional jointly owned park for this area is explored.



The trail will provide a direct link into Barker Farm Park.

Fox Valley Benefits from TE Grants

The Fox Valley will be getting a number of improvements due to Transportation Enhancement Grants awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The Town of Menasha was awarded \$302,718 to connect the Fritse Park portion of the Friendship Trail to the City of Neenah. The majority of the trail will be off road with a small portion of on-road bike path by Cellu-Tissue. Town officials have met with Kimberly Clark, Lakeview Credit Union, Cellu-Tissue, and the City of Neenah to begin laying the ground work. Engineering work is ex-

pected to be completed in 2009 with construction in 2010.

The Village of Kimberly was awarded \$480,000 to build a trail under Country Trunk Highway CE. This will provide a critical link to Gerritts Middle School for students on the south side of Highway CE. This will also link residents to recreational facilities, specifically the CE Trail and the YMCA, as well as commercial facilities such as Festival Foods and the Regal Cinema.

Are you interested in investigating other groups with purposes similar to ours? If so, listed below are the websites of groups affiliated with Fox Cities Greenways. These groups share our desire to help local residents live healthy lives in harmony with our natural environment.

Friends of the Fox <http://www.friendsofthefox.org/>

Wisconsin Bicycle federation <http://www.bfw.org/>

Fox Cities Triathlon Club <http://www.foxtriclub.com/>

Pacesetters <http://www.pacesettersrun.com/>

Events

January

17 Beginner Cross Country Ski Instruction . 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Gordon Bubolz Nature Center 920-731-6041 info@bubolzpreserve.org. Fee required.

17 Beginner Cross Country Ski Clinic. 1-3 p.m. Fallen Timbers Environmental Center, Black Creek 920-984-3700. Fee required.

24 Naturalist-led Snowshoe Hike. 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Gordon Bubolz Nature Center 920-731-6041 info@bubolzpreserve.org. Fee required.

24 Candlelight Ski. 5-8 p.m. Hartman Creek Park Lake Shelter Building, Waupaca. 715-258-2372 . Free

February

13 Moonlight Ski & Hike 6-9 p.m. Gordon Bubolz Nature Center 920-731-6041 info@bubolzpreserve.org. Fee required.

14 Evening for Sweethearts. 7-10 p.m. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London 920-779-6433 Fee required.

21 Snowshoe Race. 9:30 a.m. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London 920-779-6433 Fee required.

22 Sierra Club Snowshoe Walk. 12-2 p.m. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London.

27-28 XC Ski Trip to Ironwood, MI

Details on both events above can be found at www.wisconsin.sierra.club.org/foxvalley or by calling Nancy Brown-Koeller 920-830-6625 weeknights or 715-524-2293 weekends.

High Cliff Park Master Plan

On a Wednesday in November the DNR led a program seeking input to update the High Cliff Master Plan, which will determine how the park is improved and used in the future. Thirty-five interested citizens offered suggestions for improvements that would please current users and attract new ones. Suggestions included more horse trails and camping facilities for equestrians, more cross country and snowshoe trails, expansion of the marina, and improved beach facilities. Support was also expressed for a biking/hiking trail to link the park with the Fox Cities, and a connecting trail from High Cliff to Calumet County Park. Citizens were allowed to submit ideas after the meeting up until December 2008. The planning process is necessary in order to procure funds for future improve-

ments. If an item is not on the Master Plan, it will not be considered; however, inclusion in the Master Plan does not guarantee an amenity. Monies must be available to proceed with any item on the Master Plan. Some meeting participants suggested raising the park entrance fees as a way to finance improvements and increase staffing in the park. A draft of the new Master Plan will be presented at another public meeting in the summer of 2009 and the new plan will be presented to the DNR for approval in December 2009. Questions about the master plan should be directed to Jason Wiese, High Cliff State Park Manager at 920-989-1106 or jason.wiese@wisconsin.gov. Additional information on the Master Plan is available at http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/highcliff/

Safe Routes to School Update

Schools around the Fox Cities have made great progress in developing Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs. In the Appleton Area School District Richmond Elementary has developed Walking School Busses and a successful "Tuesday Trekkers" program. Franklin has increased the safety of walkers by building a trail through the playground of the school allowing walkers to be moved away from drivers. The Town of Grand Chute has begun working with Badger and Houdini Elementary schools to develop plans with help from a planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The Kimberly Area School District has completed their plan and is moving toward implementation. Meetings will be held with each school in the near future to

begin implementing the plan for each school. This group supported the Village of Kimberly in their successful grant application for a tunnel under CTH CE. The Little Chute School District is just about done with the planning phase of their Safe Routes to School Program. Meetings will be held with the individual schools in the very near future to begin putting the plan into place. Preferred walking and biking routes for the schools are being coordinated with the bike routes in the Village's Open Space and Recreation plan. All of these programs can use your help and support. If you would like to help the kids in your neighborhood walk or bike to school please contact Tom Walsh at twalsh@new.rr.com or 830-6325.

What is the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway?

When early explorers paddled up the Fox River in hope of finding the fabled "Route to the Orient" they could not have imagined the myriad opportunities that would be unleashed by their travels. Today, we can see that their historic journey on the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers ultimately led to the opening of the Northwest Territory, and a great expansion of our nation. The Fox River Valley and the Lower Wisconsin waterway played a unique role in shaping our nation's growth and forming our nation's history. Besides playing a critical role in the opening of the Northwest Territory, the river corridor has significance in early Native American history as well as importance during the industrial development era of the late 1800's.

Over a decade ago a plan was conceived to acknowledge and promote an appreciation for this route. The plan, called the *Fox River Heritage State Parkway Concept Plan* sought to establish as a recreational and historic parkway, the route along the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers that Marquette and Joliet followed in 1673 in their explorations. In recent years, the Friends of the Fox organization, along with other interested parties, have resurrected this idea and are attempting to turn it into reality.

The Fox and Wisconsin Rivers stretch approximately 275 miles from Green Bay southwest to Prairie du Chien. The waterway consists of three segments: the Lower Fox-Lake Winnebago pool, the Upper Fox-Wolf-Lake Winnebago pool, and the

Lower Wisconsin River. The three segments are connected midstream by the historic Portage Canal.

Establishing the Heritage Parkway will tie the current landscape with the history which brought us to it and make that history come alive. It will allow residents and visitors to roam the area by power boat, canoe, or kayak along the water trail; by foot or wheel along walking and biking trails; or by car on a driving tour. As they roam, they will encounter pieces of the many stories that have occurred here. Whatever the historic era, we all have the river in common. Therefore, each of our stories is the same story and to tell them, to keep them alive, to enhance the pride we already feel in our home ... that is what the Parkway is all about.

This is the first of a series of articles on the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway.

For more information or to become a member of ***Friends of the Fox*** contact Candice Mortara @ 920-739-0299 or go to www.friendsofthefox.org

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Permit No 139

P.O. Box 5
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Please Join Fox Cities Greenways Today!

Name: _____ Address _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

My company has a matching gift program: No Yes, Company Name: _____

I would like to receive newsletter via e-mail: Yes No

I would like to receive occasional special alerts about Greenways issues via e-mail: Yes No

Membership Levels for one year: I wish to volunteer for:

Guardian \$35 Trail landscaping, maintenance

Sentinel \$50 Photography

Advocate \$100 Newsletter, mailings

Conservator \$250 Greenways committees

Trailblazer \$500 Other talents I could share

Pathfinder \$1,000

My annual membership fee \$ _____ Special contribution \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Mail to Greenways, P.O. Box 5, Menasha, WI 54952-0005