

In this Issue: Rental Equipment for the Park, Adult Lesson groups forming, Evening Skiing, Enviro, Interns, Preparations for the Winter Season, Fall Trails Day, Bike Tour, Winter Park Hours, Night Skiing, New Officers

The Past:

Higley Hundred Bike Tour

This summer offered some of the best biking weather in many years. The Higley Hundred, the Friends major fund raiser for the year, enjoyed some of the best of this weather. Fifty-five riders participated in the event. After a strenuous and rewarding ride which included White Hill and the Raquette River Road, riders enjoyed leisurely time in and around the Lodge, renewing friendships and partaking of the traditional barbeque, where late season corn on the cob from the Thomas Farm was a particular hit. In addition to the entries, a substantial donation from Graymont, a longtime supporter of the Friends, and smaller ones from Chip's Place and the Canton Bicycle Club pushed the net income from the event to nearly two thousand dollars.



Fall Trails Day

Over 60 volunteers participated in this year's Trails Day. All trails had encroaching vegetation cut back. This in itself will improve the skiing experience for users. Branches were picked up, culverts checked, and some wood chips spread on Overlook. Prior to the day Park staff spread a quantity of chips to lessen the severity of the hill on the Overlook/Warmbrook connector trail. Staff, accompanied by Ed Fuhr, cut over 100 hazard trees in the areas of Warmbrook, Overlook and Pine. The practice of doing this the last few years has greatly reduced the amount of blowdown on the trails throughout the winter.



Present:

Annual Friends Meeting

The Friends group was formed thirteen years ago with a vision of complementing the Parks programs in ways that might be helpful and particularly in enhancing four season recreation at the Park. Winter use of the Park had already been popular for many years, but there were so many possibilities for improved trails, new trails, learning programs, somewhere for people to warm up in the winter, and warm bathroom facilities. Grooming, in addition to that done by SLU, was provided by volunteers then, as now, but the inception of Friends was when volunteers bought the first of two privately owned specific grooming sleds. The Town of Colton, through a grant secured by Mary Jane Watson, purchased a grooming drag, which they located at the Park. The drag provided a much better surface, but required one of these sleds to pull it. The Friends knew that at some point down the road, these sleds would need replacing, and this was another goal of the group.

From the beginning and through the development and growth of the Friends group, our leadership has had three dedicated officers: Tom French as President, David Trithart, alternately as VP and Secretary and Doug Welch as Treasurer. Tom and Doug decided before the meeting not to run again for their offices. They felt that it was time for a new infusion of energy and ideas. David initially planned to stay on to ease the transition, but after seeing a number of volunteers step up to be willing to serve, he offered to step aside. We owe these three individuals a huge vote of gratitude for their service over the last thirteen years; without them we would not be where we are today. The new Board and officers are: Ethan Townsend-President, Joan Trivilino-VP, Judy Fuhr-Secretary, Lorraine Gowing-Treasurer; Phil Bain, Joan Mentley, Danielle Jerry-special activity leaders.

Nordic Ski Masters Group Starting

If you want to improve your cross country ski techniques, learn to skate ski, meet others who love Nordic skiing, perhaps try citizen racing, or, if you are a woman who wants to take lessons with other women, then Friends of Higley Flow State Park invite you to join our new satellite club, Higley Flow Nordic Ski Masters. The plan is for the Club to form two groups, a mixed Masters group and a Women's group. Each group would meet once a week at Higley for 90 minutes of skiing with a coach from Jan. to mid-March. We are also looking for coaches willing to work for tips from eager Club members. (Think yoga, golf caddies, and guides)

Meeting times have not been finalized, but we are currently proposing Tuesday and Thursday nights (with headlamps) when the Park has its evening ski. We also intend to schedule a few weekend sessions for some daytime skiing.

If you are interested in joining or coaching, please send your contact information to Danielle Jerry at DGJerry434@gmail.com and we will invite you to a pre-season kickoff meeting on Thursday, December 8th at 7 pm, location to be determined. Think Snow!

New Park Kiosk

Last year you might have noticed some logs lying on the ground near the lodge. Under the skilled craftsmanship of Tim Pearl these logs have been transformed into a brand new kiosk for the Park trails. The new kiosk even has a space underneath it so skiers can ski right up to it to register.

