

Trail News – 12/19/14

Next Meeting of the Governor's State Trails Council: Monday, January 12

The next meeting of the Governor's State Trails Council will be a teleconference held on Monday, January 12, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Public participation is possible in room 513 in the State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2) at 101 S. Webster St. Madison, WI 53703.

The State Trails Council is appointed by the Governor to provide state trail user groups and individuals a voice in the statewide trails program. The STC also provides a forum for dealing with solutions to conflicts between and within trail user groups and trail providers. Additionally, the STC provides advice and consultation to the Department of Natural Resources regarding the planning, acquisition, development and management of trails in Wisconsin.

Agenda items will include council member updates, DNR report and other trail issues. Information about the STC, along with January meeting materials, is available online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/stc/>.

Please RSVP by January 7, 2014 (daniel.buckler@wisconsin.gov) if you are planning to attend the public participation in Madison.

Eleven First Day Hikes to be held at state properties January 1, 2015

Eleven hikes on 10 different state properties will be held on January 1 to help usher in the New Year in Wisconsin. Visitors embarking on First Day Hikes enjoy 1- to 2- mile walks through beautiful natural areas led by park rangers and volunteers. Many of these hikes will also feature other activities such as crafts, storytelling, costume contests, campfires and making s'mores.

America's State Parks and the American Hiking Society are teaming up with state park programs across the country to promote First Day Hikes as a healthy and memorable way to start the New Year. All 50 states are participating in the fourth annual event that invites families and friends to celebrate the New Year amid the sights and sounds of our natural world with fun, guided hikes.

Last year, 190 participants hiked a total of 605.7 miles at nine different state park properties, and more than 27,000 people took part in more than 800 hikes nationwide.

For more information, please visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/weekly/article/?id=3161>.

Explore Wisconsin by Candlelight

Skiers, snowshoers and hikers will once again have the opportunity to enjoy Wisconsin state properties this winter after the sun goes down. There are 25 candlelight events scheduled for the season, starting January 3 at Blue Mound and Mirror Lake state parks, and running through the middle of February. Most of the events offer opportunities to ski, snowshoe or hike, though some trails are only for specific uses. If there is no snow, most outings will be held as hikes. People are encouraged to call ahead to confirm that the event is still scheduled.

Other activities such as bonfires are planned at some events, and hot refreshments may be available for sale. Many of the events are organized by Friends groups which provide much of the volunteer labor for the outings.

Candlelight events are some of the most popular activities in Wisconsin state park properties. Outings in 2014 included an event at Rib Mountain State Park that drew 450 people, one at Blue Mound State Park that drew 1,000 and one at the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest that drew 1,500 people.

For a listing of candlelight events across Wisconsin, please visit:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/calendar/events/parks/index.asp?caudience=Candlelight%20event&numres=100>.

Trail News End, 12/19/14