



Friends of the Badger Trail Annual Meeting Announcement

Date: Wed., Nov. 18, 2009
Place: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI
Time: 7:00 pm

Guest Speaker: *The Wisconsin Historical Markers Program by Rick Bernstein*

Wisconsin historical markers identify, commemorate, and honor the important people, places, and events that have contributed to the state's rich heritage. This program, currently with 519 entries, is a vital education tool, informing people about the most significant aspects of Wisconsin's past. The historic Stewart tunnel on the Badger Trail just south of Belleville in Exeter might be a candidate. Rick Bernstein, of the Wisconsin Historical Society which administers the Wisconsin Historical Makers Program, will discuss the program.

Other business:

1. Trail Explorers
Recognition of those who achieved Trail Explorer status in 2009.
2. Election of Officers
The positions of Vice-President, Treasurer, and one Director-At-Large are up for election.
3. Annual Report of the Organization
See report on reverse. Come with your questions and suggestions for new projects.
4. Membership Renewal
Continue to show your support for the Badger Trail by renewing your membership. If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, you are invited to mail the form below with your check or renew online at www.biketheadger.com.



Friends of the Badger Trail Membership Renewal 2009-2010	
Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone: Home:	Other:
Email:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular single \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (>55 years) \$12 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$50	
Mail this form and your check payable to the <u>Friends of the Badger Trail</u> to:	
Friends of the Badger Trail, PO Box 805, New Glarus WI 53574-0805	
To pay by credit card go to www.biketheadger.com Thank you for your support of the Trail!	

Date: November 6, 2009
To: Members of the Friends of the Badger Trail
From: Sharon Kaminecki, President
Re: Annual Report for 2008-2009

Annual Meeting –The 2008 annual meeting was held at the DNR Service Center in Fitchburg on Nov. 19. Special guest speaker Jerry Remy, a member of the Belleville Area Historical Society, entertained attendees with stories of worker shanty-type accommodations, steam pipes routed over the hill to power steam shovels, and locals who traveled long distances to have picnics on a hill and watch the progress of the tunnel below. Another tunnel researcher from Belleville, Marian Viney, shared a story of meeting one of the laborers who worked on the tunnel while riding a speeder car at a Depot Days festival in Belleville years ago. Following a discussion of the annual report by Acting President Sharon Kaminecki and a Treasurer's report by Bernie Robertson elections of officers were held: Sharon Kaminecki was elected President, Craig Zentner Vice President, Kurt Neuman Secretary, and Betsy Vogel and Dan Sullivan Directors at Large for 3 year terms. Note: On May 20, 2009 David Vogt resigned as Director at Large and Dana Bunner was elected by the Directors to fill out his term.

Trail Completion – The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Transportation (DOT) evaluated use of federal stimulus funding to complete the last 6.1 miles of the Badger Trail miles from Purcell Road into Madison, but decided to continue to use Transportation Enhancement funding as previously approved. Design work began in the Spring to resolve issues with slopes, railings, and bridge widths. The project will probably be bid out in January with work to begin as soon as weather allows.

Trail Explorers – This program challenges trail enthusiasts to ride the entire Badger, Sugar River, and Jane Addams trails, a total of 73 miles, on a bicycle in a year. In its second year 13 individuals have become Trail Explorers in 2009 to date. This year there were two people who biked the trails twice (that's 146 miles in one day!) and two boy scouts. Trail Explorer inspirational stories and photos are posted on www.biketheadger.com.

Kiosk at the Tunnel – A committee led by Betsy Vogel and Dan Sullivan is continuing work on constructing a kiosk at the Stewart Tunnel funded by a DNR Stewardship grant and volunteers. The initial plan was to construct the standard DNR kiosk that now appears in Belleville, Monticello, and the state line, but the committee wanted to build a unique structure. A group met to brainstorm a concept and Mike Whaley from J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc. donated his services to develop a high level design incorporating an arch that reflects the openings of the tunnel and Denny Oostdik from Ostdyke Design donated his time to develop detailed construction plans. Bids are currently being solicited from local contractors for construction.

Trail Passes & Merchandise Sales –The primary source of funds, outside membership dues, was commission on the sale of State Trail Passes through local businesses and self registration boxes that was coordinated by Betsy Vogel. The sale of Badger Trail logo tee-shirts and caps at vendor locations and on the Internet also continued. New this year is a trail patch.

Trail Activities and Promotion – Organized trail activities included night time trail rides from Monticello to the tunnel in June and from Monroe to the Haunted Mill in Orangeville in Oct. A member cookout was held in conjunction with the August meeting at the Monticello trail head. The DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation has a pilot Trail Tenders program and Dan Sullivan and Betsy Vogel attended a training session in March. The training covered laws that govern state trails, rules for monitoring the trails, and customer service tips for interacting with a wide variety of people and situations to provide our group with the skills and information to help maintain and protect state trails for the enjoyment of all visitors.

Member Communications – Email marketing software was used to communicate with members and others interested in the trail in seven emails throughout the year. Notice of the 2009 annual meeting was sent via US Mail per the bylaws. Four membership meetings were held rotating in communities along the Trail. Two web sites are managed by members.

Future Plans – Depending on member feedback, we plan to pursue the following projects:

- Monitor trail completion to Madison and organize a grand opening event.
- Assist development of trail amenities including a kiosk at the tunnel, benches, rest areas, and a trail head in Monroe.
- Increase the number of Trail Explorers.
- Organize recreational trail activities such as night time bicycle rides, group trail rides, trail work days, and a possible running event.
- Continue to promote the sale of trail passes, Badger Trail merchandise (tee-shirts caps, and patches) and investigate other fundraising opportunities.
- Continue to communicate with members primarily via email, at quarterly general membership meetings, and the web sites.
- Begin planning for a Wisconsin Historical Marker for the Stewart tunnel.