

New Rental Gear for the Park

Do you ever have guests you wish you could bring with you to the Park to try skiing or snowshoeing, but they have no equipment and there is nowhere locally to rent any? That has now changed! HFSP has purchased 28 sets of quality adult sized Evo skis, boots and poles and 10 additional pairs of boots. The Friends purchased 12 complete sets of youth/children's equipment, also from the Rossignol Evo line. The equipment will be available from 8:00-3:00, 7 days a week. Rentals will be located at the maintenance building. Under 12 year olds will have no rental fee, others a modest \$7.00 fee. Snowshoes are available for \$3.00. Kayaks will also be available in the summer months. School groups will be able to access the equipment for free during the week. We already have the Colton School taking advantage of this for four grade levels. If you know of other groups who might be interested in this opportunity have them call the Park at 315-262-2880 to make arrangements.



In a cooperative effort, Parks provided the materials, Friends the labor for the rack, which when in place will be free standing with boots on the other side. The photo shows the youth skis the Friends purchased. When the Parks order arrives the rack will be full.

Park Hours

Hours at the Park will reflect sunset. The starting time will always be 8:00A.M. Hours are currently 5:00P.M. and will remain so until sunset time moves late enough to increase the hours by one hour increments. Tuesday and Thursday nights will feature night skiing sponsored by the Friends group. If you are interested in hosting one of these nights please contact Barry Walch, who will be coordinating night skiing at bwalch@twcny.rr.com. Be sure and check the ski reports before you come if conditions look uncertain (ice, low snow). If you would like to receive ski reports and are

not already on the list contact Judy Fuhr at jfuhr@twcny.rr.com

Looking Forward

The Friends will once again sponsor the Rod Thomas Memorial Higley Hustle Ski Race during Colton Winterfest on Sat. Jan. 28th. Entry fees are only \$10.00 for the 5K classic race, \$5.00 for the short junior race which are a great introduction to racing for recreational skiers. We are always looking for participants, so come join the fun! On Sunday, Friends will sponsor Family Day with mini lessons for beginners, refreshments, and of course the newly available rental skis and snowshoes.

HFSP is home to other events throughout the year. CPCS has its annual Hospice ski and snowshoe-athon on the first Sat. in Feb. Skiers can stop by the Lodge and make a donation if they wish and enjoy the refreshments.

May 13, 2017 Colton Recreation will sponsor its first ever Duathlon: 3mile run, 24 mile bike, 1 mile run for individuals and 2 person teams. The runs will be on the Park camp roads and the bike utilizes the Raquette River Rd. Info on this is available from Kevin LaMora at 262-0899.

Parks will offer free swim lessons this summer in two week sessions. To sign up a young person contact Shari at the Park 262-2880. A limited number of slots are available so don't delay!

Caroline Hoctor of the Regional Parks Office is heading up a group of 10 interns who will be available for Environmentally related projects including working with Nature Centers, offering programs and working on trail development and building. We are hopeful of having some dedicated snowshoe trails marked as well as some trail work on the Warmbrook Trail.

We Need You!

Our fixed annual expenses exceed \$3000. In addition we always seem to have worthwhile projects, such as the rental skis come up. Your membership is important to us, please join! Donations greatly appreciated too!

Volunteer Groomers Sought

We are looking for individuals who would be willing to help with trail grooming. Although Ed and Judy have done it since the beginning, eventually they will need to retire from the grooming duties. This is not imminent but we would like to have some other folks to fill in some when we have other commitments. This is not a job for everyone, it is 75% smooth going but there are other times when it is just plain hard work. There will be times when you will be stuck in snow or on ice and you are usually on your own to get out-always have a cell phone or Park radio with you! If interested and we haven't scared you off contact Ed Fuhr at efuhr@twcny.rr.com, 742-2455.