



Trail Mix

A Monthly Newsletter of Afton State Park

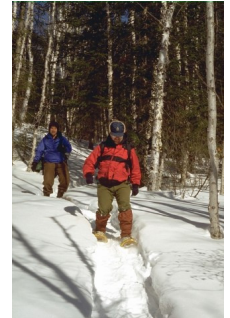
December 2009



A Wilderness Close to Home

Running on Snow with Snowshoes

Are you a runner who is interested in keeping in shape this winter or are you interested in trying a new sport? Over the next few months, Jim McDonell, an avid snowshoe runner, will be teaching a class on how to run on snow. You don't need to be a fast runner or even have done a running race or even have interest in doing a race to participate. All skill levels are welcome.



Cabin Site #3

It is highly encouraged that everyone tries to attend the first day of the class, December 13 from 2-3PM in Afton's visitor center. Jim will be discussing equipment, clothing, technique and races. This entire class will probably be spent indoors since it looks like the possibility of snow is pretty low. If you are unable to attend this first class, you are still welcome to attend other classes.

Camper Cabin Update

Earlier this summer, site preparation work was completed on the locations for Afton's four camper cabins.

The cabins are currently being built offsite and will be brought into the park by truck.

We received some good news last week that two of our cabins are nearly finished being built.

We anticipate the cabins being ready to rent probably at some point in January. Keep an eye on the park's website and this newsletter for the announcement of when the cabins will be opening.



The rest of the classes will include a brief discussion and then will go outside on the snowshoe trail. You'll warm up by walking, then run and then walk to cool down. The pace will be adjusted so that no one gets left behind. Feel free to attend any or all of the dates: January 10, January 24, January 31, February 7, and February 14. All classes are from 2-3pm and held in the visitor center.

Class size may be limited due to the number of snowshoes available. The park rents snowshoes (\$6/person) or you can bring your own. Please register for the class by calling 651-436-5391 and also let us know if you'd like to rent snowshoes.

Holiday Shopping 2009

Just in time for this season's holiday shopping, Minnesota State Parks have announced the release of the Minnesota State Parks Gift Card. The cards can be loaded for any amount from \$10 and \$1,000 and never expire. Outdoor enthusiasts can use the card to choose their ideal gift – from a night of



Cabin Site #1

camping or a camper cabin getaway to Minnesota State Parks-wear, books, and other great selections from Minnesota State Parks gift shops. The cards can also be used to purchase vehicle permits.

The gift card can be purchased at any state park including Afton, by phone (1-866-85PARKS), online (stayatmnparks.com) and in person at the DNR Information Center, 500 Lafayette Road in St. Paul.

As an added bonus, throughout the holiday season, gift cards pre-loaded with amounts ranging from \$10 - \$50 will be randomly hidden in Wildlife Safari geocaches located in every state park and recreation area. (*Hint: Afton's gift card has not yet been hidden, there's still a chance for you to find it!*)

November Park Updates

Boy Scout Troop 434 built and installed water bar troughs and rehabbed campsite #19.

Girl Scout Troop 52658 donated 9 bluebird houses they had built.

Allen Clark completed his Eagle Scout project of building and installing a kiosk and bench by the new camper cabin vault toilet.

A volunteer painted all of our vault toilet buildings.

Due to the incredibly mild weather, we were able to complete some of the latest burns ever at Afton. One burn took place on the west half of the campground, and the other burn was north of the snowshoe trail near the Afton Alps boundary line.



New kiosk and bench



November 10 Prescribed Burn



November 18 Prescribed Burn



Girl Scout Troop 52658

Upcoming Events

December 13 – Running on Snow with Snowshoes Class

Feb 6, 2010 – Candlelight Snowshoe/Hike @ 6-9pm

Volunteer Opportunities

Help out at the candlelight snowshoe/hike event.

Assist in creating computer programs for our new touch screen kiosk.

Paint park signs.

Pick up litter in the parking lots.

For comments, questions, more information, to volunteer, or to remove yourself from the mailing list, send an email to Rachel.Hintzman@dnr.state.mn.us.