



The Maple Leaf

Fall 2015

Friends of Maplewood State Park

Maplewood State Park
39721 Park Entrance Rd
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
218-863-8383

Don Del Greco, Park Manager
Jeff Fjestad,
Asst. Park Manager

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 16 – Annual Meeting

FRIENDS of MAPLEWOOD
BOX 259
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Advisory Committee

Steve Nagle, chairperson
Alma & Marvin Ronningen, secretary
Stu & Corinne Peterson, treasurer
Kay & Denny Albright, membership
Judy Babler
Char Berger
Penny Brynildson
Deb Carpenter
Carol & Sanford Emery
Judy Engebretson
Barb & Jeff Grunewald
Bob & Kathy Hanson
Terry Heller
Ruth & Van Holmgren
Ruth Holt
Jerry Jacobson
Diane & David Knopf
Phyllis & Cliff Knutson
Bob & Karen Kreiser
Bonnie & John Nordstrom
Sonya & Dan Oehler
Larry & Judy Olson
Wayne Runningen
Mary & Chuck Sorum
Lila & Alex Stoffel
Yvonne & Lyle Tweten

PRAIRIE RESTORATION



We cordially invite all Friends of Maplewood members to join in the festivities as we celebrate the Legacy Prairie Restoration Projects at Maplewood State Park on September 26.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division will celebrate the importance of the Legacy Amendment funding to prairie restoration in Minnesota state parks on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015. The event is in conjunction with the annual Friends of Maplewood State Park Leaf Days celebration. **Legacy Amendment events will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, a self-guided prairie restoration tour and demonstrations.**

The brief ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter. A self-guided tour, brochure provided, will showcase the various stages of prairie restoration projects while visitors drive the scenic route to witness the wonder of fall color on the edge of Maplewood's renowned hardwood forests and the colorful prairies of the west.

At various sites along the guided tour, there will be demonstrations of prairie restoration projects and site hosts will be available from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to answer questions.

Prairie restoration in Minnesota state parks is made possible by the Parks and Trails Fund, created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in November 2008. The Parks and Trails Fund receives 14.25 percent of the sales tax revenue and may only be spent to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. The Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program, which receives 20 percent of this fund, provides grants to local governments to acquire, develop, restore and maintain parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. "Legacy Amendment funding has been a key factor in supporting prairie restoration in Minnesota state parks," said Erika Rivers, DNR Parks and Trails Director. "We invite folks to come out and see what five years of Legacy money has allowed us to accomplish to restore native prairie plant, wildlife and pollinator habitat in Maplewood State Park." Prior to Legacy funding, money for restoring native prairies on state park lands was scarce. Since the initiation of Legacy funding, the pace of native plant restoration at state parks and trails has increased 59 percent, prescribed burning has increased 34 percent and control of invasive plants has increased by more than 90 percent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Fun Festival

October 17th 5pm-7pm



Head down to the Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter as we start our Halloween celebration with some fun, food and craft projects! Make a trick-or-treat bag for the evening festivities. There are a limited number of supplies, so when they are gone, they are gone! If you are camping, decorate your campsite! There will be different categories with prizes! Kids can go trick or treating in the campground. Sites that are willing to participate in the trick or treating will have orange pumpkin cards on their site posts.

Schedule of Events:

- 3:00 – 4:30 Games and Craft Stations at the Josh Hanson Memorial Shelter
- 4:30 – 5:00 Stories, Songs, and Snacks
- 5:00 – 6:00 Break (on your own)
- 6:00 – 6:45 Trick or Treating & Campsite judging in the Main Campground
- 6:30 Bonfire & Marshmallow Roast start at Campground Host Site #21. Bring your own marshmallow sticks and chairs.
- 7:00 prizes awarded for Campsite Decorating Contest



2nd Annual Plein Air Painting event

PLEIN AIR is a French expression meaning “in the open air” and is painting from life on-location. Plein Air began in the 19th century when English artist John Constable suggested artists should trust their vision to uncover the truth in nature; to capture the effects of light at different times of day and observe how the changing light changes your subject.



DATE: Saturday, September 19th

Time: 9:30 – 4:00

**Place: Josh Hanson Shelter
Maplewood State Park**

SCHEDULE:

- 9:30 coffee and Rolls provided by Friends of Maplewood
- 10:00 Presentation/Demonstration of Plein Air Painting by guest artist Raleigh Kinney
- Noon Lunch and conversation with other artists.
Bring your own picnic lunch.
- 12:30 On-location drawing and painting under the direction of Raleigh Kinney
- 3:30 Critique of works from the days efforts, conducted by Raleigh Kinney

Cost: \$60 registration closes September 9th

Registration: Send the fee along with your name, address, phone # and email to

Lila Hauge-Stoffel , 42365 Matson Point Road, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572,

Phone for additional information: 218-770-1627

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Raleigh Kinney has enjoyed a reputation for his work nationally for the past 35 years. His work is held in high regard by his peers in both the Transparent Watercolor Society of America and the Plein Air Painters of America. His work continues to be accepted in major art shows and competitions across the U.S. Raleigh Kinney is a great artist and teacher who will enlighten and inspire your work. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from a Master Artist.

LEAF DAYS

September 26 – 27

October 3 – 4

Our Leaf Days celebration is fast approaching. It is the time of year to get outside and enjoy the fall fresh air, the beautiful colors of nature, and get some exercise enjoying them.

We will have activities on both weekends, but as of this writing we are just beginning to look for activities. Do you know of someone who might volunteer their skills for a demonstration? Or a musical group? Or teach a skill? Or a story of the early days of Maplewood township? When we get things organized, we'll send out an email for your information. There will be wagon rides both weekends.

It is also the time of year the Friends of Maplewood need volunteers. We always need help cooking, selling food, selling clothing, directing traffic, or sitting at our Friends display. If you would be willing to work one day, half a day, or a couple of hours, please call John Nordstrom at 218-334-6567 or email nordlake7@hotmail.com.



ART IN THE PARK



It was another great day for our food booth at Art in the Park in Pelican Rapids. The weather was great and we served a lot of food. Our profit for the long day of work was \$1149.98. Well worth the effort. Thank you to our workers: Denny & Kay Albright, Deb Carpenter, Collin & Elizabeth Engebretson, Judi Engebretson, Van Holmgren, Cliff & Phyllis Knutson, Steve Nagle, John & Bonnie Nordstrom, Stu Peterson, Alma Ronningen, Wayne Runningen. Special thanks to West Central Turkeys for their donation of turkey and ice. Special thanks to Lake Region Electric for their donation of brewed coffee.



PICNIC SHELTER WEEDS

TEN volunteers spend from 8:30 – 10:00 on

Wednesday, July 15th, pulling weeds out of the areas around the Picnic Shelter. Wild Geranium or Leafy Spurge or whatever name they go by needed to be removed from the area. It is easy to identify because it covers almost everything. Thanks to Denny Albright, Susan Anderson, Fran Bassett, Henry Becerra, Robert Hanson, Andrea & Jim Hotzfield, Carol Koepcke, Mark McKenna, John Nordstrom. The weeds will be back next year. Maybe they already are. We'll be weeding again. Look for the announcement and come and help.



THE RANGER REPORT



**2015 Summer
PARK MANAGER
Don Del Greco**

Headline Stories

As we approach the beauty and wonder of the fall color season at Maplewood we take a quick look back at some "headline highlights" of 2015.

- 2015 Winter's lack of snow provides excellent ice conditions and access for winter anglers, extended hiking and great winter camping cabin use at Maplewood.
- Timely snowfall provides for "just enough" snow for an excellent and well-attended Friends of Maplewood Candlelight Ski Event.
- Winter Conservation Corps projects completed: Crew members from around the country relocate Wildlife Blind building, rehabilitate Cow Lake Back-pack site and build new bridge on the Grass Lake Interpretive Trail.
- Maple syrup season returns to Maplewood: Favorable weather sets stage for expanded maple syrup interpretive programs to Pelican Rapids, Frazee and Underwood Schools.
- Gravel road repair/improvement projects completed: Campground roads receive new "lift" of gravel after record rainfalls erosion of 2014.
- Culvert repair/beaver deflector structures installed on park culverts: new design prove very effective in protecting/maintaining roads and waterways.
- Main Campground water line repair completed in early May in preparation for camping season
- This year Maplewood along with 16 other Minnesota State Parks now offer 100% reservable "guaranteed" campsites for all campgrounds (except Maplewood's Horse Campground)
- Excellent fishing reported throughout spring/summer 2015
- Maplewood conducts prescribed burns: Favorable weather provided for an excellent prescribed burn season in late May.

-Maplewood announces new staff/changes: Please welcome new employee team members:
Chloe Evenson, natural Resource Worker
Clay Novotny, Building and Grounds /Resource Program
Jared Lund, Building and Grounds Worker

-A hearty congratulations to Brett Olson, Building and Grounds Worker, who accepted new employment opportunities and has provided excellent service in his 10 year career at Maplewood.

-The Maplewood Sugar Shack Partnership Project continues to move forward. Throughout 2015, DNR Parks and Trails staff, DNR architects/engineering staff and Friends of Maplewood Sugar Shack Committee members have met several times and have worked closely together to further develop building and site plans for this project. We are thankful to see the continued progress made in this unique partnership. We look forward look to upcoming developments for this interpretive/educational facility at Maplewood.

-Horse trail rehabilitation work scheduled for late summer at Maplewood: Conservation corps to provide for ongoing repair and maintenance of park's 25 miles of horse trail.

-Maplewood hosted numerous local schools' "Year-End" and "Year-Beginning" Events. (Pelican Rapids, Perham, Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Underwood, Frazee/Vergas and others)

-Hallaway Hill Vista Project: Selective tree and branch trimming to enhance visitor views from Hallaway Hill overlook.

-Maplewood's 2015 Park Visitation (Day Use and Overnight Use) up +11% from 2014. The big story for the Summer of 2015 is the consistent "picture-perfect" weather conditions increasing park visitation across the Minnesota State park System.

Thank you for your kind, gracious and faithful support of Maplewood State Park throughout the seasons and in future years to come. We welcome the opportunity to see you again soon this autumn and look forward to gathering together to enjoy the wonder of Maplewood.

Kevin Kvenvolden

Maplewood State Park employee

Kevin graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1983 with a degree in Forestry. In March of 1989 he applied for a job at Maplewood. For 25 years Kevin has held the position of Buildings and Grounds supervisor at Maplewood State Park. The position is seasonal and he works 6 ½ months from mid-April until the end of October. He calls it the best job he has ever had and in talking with him one realizes how much he cares for Maplewood State Park.

At times when you visit Maplewood you will see Kevin almost every time you turn around because he is involved in all aspects of caring for the park. Other times you visit you might never see him, but when you think about the 9000 acres that he cares for it is understandable.



Most mornings they meet at 8:30 to discuss the day's activities and what needs to be done. The fact that everyone who works at the park is not afraid to get out and get dirty makes the group a big happy family and a fun work environment. Kevin appreciates the summer helpers, especially when they return year after year, so he doesn't have to spend a lot of time training them.

His favorite job would be operating a chain saw. The enjoyment of felling a tree and cutting it up is something he could do all day. He also enjoys cleaning the buildings and then later finding a comment card that says "clean bathrooms, we'll be back". Opening and closing buildings, road maintenance, and 40 miles of trails to maintain are other responsibilities. Having to spend time in the office would be on his list of least favorite jobs. All I know is that there is a lot of knowledge about what needs to be done in Maplewood recorded in Kevin's head and he'll be a tough person to have to replace some day.

Getting to visit with campers when he is on night security work is fun. Those campers really are good people. Kevin stated, "They make the park look good because most of them are responsible and clean up after themselves in the bathroom and fish cleaning areas." Watching the little kids in the park having fun is a great joy. On night security he refers to the loud noise of the kids as "going to bed noise".

When they put in that Little Library, Kevin thought it wouldn't last long. "I am amazed at how many people use it. It is such a great addition to Maplewood," Kevin stated. One day he found a little girl sitting behind the library reading. Striking up a conversation he discovered she had been fishing all morning with her dad, told him she was tired of that, and was going to go spend some time reading. He stops often to read the comments left in the notebook in the little library.

This spring they couldn't get water to come out of the spigot in the fish cleaning house. The sprayers worked, but not the spigot. It was a head scratcher. They finally took the top off the spigot, but still no water. Using his finger he could push down on the hole and it was spongy. Finally water shot out of the hole and the mouse fell out of the nozzle. Problems like this make his job interesting and sometimes full of humor.

As he looks back over his 25 years, he just marvels at all the improvements at Maplewood. It has come a long way, but there is still room for more. His #1 choice would be an improved and larger shower building at the main campground.

When you're in Maplewood and in need of a good conversation, go find Kevin. He enjoys talking about the park and you will soon learn that this is a big job, but he truly enjoys Maplewood State Park and taking care of it. During your conversation maybe you can help him figure out how to get that load of gravel up to the top of Hallaway Hill. Thanks Kevin for all that you do.

Check out our Friends of Maplewood website

friendsofmaplewood.org

Thanks to Brenda & Aubrey Ebanks for setting it up and always keeping it current.

Sugar Shack Update

Things have begun to happen on the Sugar Shack project, and yet there is still much to be done!

Although things have moved slower than anticipated, progress on a one-of-a-kind Minnesota State Park maple interpretive program is evidenced by the survey work at the building site area near Maplewood's Trail Center. With the help of the DNR survey staff, survey stakes and elevation markings are in place. The exact location and orientation for the building has been identified and the building plans developed by the DNR architects are nearly finalized.

Since we last reported, the DNR Parks and Trails division has developed the required architectural and landscaping plans for the building site. These plans are presently under review by the State's engineers who must approve the details of all State projects. The Sugar Shack Committee has begun to interview and line up contractors and get revised cost estimates based on the updated DNR building specifications. These are being reviewed and suggestions are being made for desired adjustments or clarifications before we sign off and begin the construction phase.

The details required to comply with State Park building standards have slowed our efforts to get an early start on construction, but we believe we are nearly there. The next important hurdle is the agreement called a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) between the Friends group and the DNR. This document will spell out the responsibilities of both the DNR and the Friends of Maplewood with respect to the Sugar Shack project. Essentially it says the Friends group will build the building according to the approved plans under DNR oversight, while the DNR assumes responsibility for all landscaping, sidewalks, parking lot, handicap access requirements and future maintenance necessary for a "State Park worthy" facility. We expect to finalize the MOU in the next couple of weeks and get started on site preparation (hopefully dirt work and concrete) yet this fall. Our intentions are to have all the details worked out in time for a complete report at the Friends of Maplewood annual meeting on September 16.

One major implication of a first class building that meets State and State Park building requirements is that the cost of the facility will no doubt be higher than we originally anticipated. While we have a sizable fund ready to commit to the project along with volunteers and strong support from vendors and contractors, fund raising efforts will be pursued to help finance the Sugar Shack project. We do not intend to commit our entire treasury at the expense of sacrificing our other ongoing activities and programming in the Park.

The September 16 annual meeting program will include a complete update and full discussion of the project by the Sugar Shack Committee and representatives from the DNR Parks and Trails.

THANK YOU

There is a new light on the memorial flag Picnic Shelter. We would like to thank Electric for donating his time and labor to put in the new light which was donated by Dakota Electric.



at the Josh Hanson Memorial
Richard Arntson of Arntson

Maple Syrup Day at Maplewood State Park

It was a successful day on Saturday, April 11th. A little breezy, but nice and warm. People came. By day's end 159 cars had come to Maplewood State Park. We estimate around 300 visitors throughout the day.

The Friends of Maplewood demonstrated the maple syrup process and answered many questions. We started the fire at 7:30 in the morning and finished the boil at 6:00. 125 gallons of sap were boiled down to about 3 gallons. It was the 8th and final boil of the season with a total of 670 gallons of sap collected and boiled down.

Besides learning about maple syrup and the process to make sap into syrup, many people took advantage of the beautiful day to take a hike on the trails in Maplewood. The Friends of Maplewood served around 150 maple syrup topped ice cream sundaes.

Look for our sale of Maple Syrup at Leaf Days in September.

SCHOOLS LEARN ABOUT MAPLE SYRUP

When school groups come to Maplewood in the spring during maple sugar season, they get to experience the process of turning maple sap into maple sugar. Instructions are given on how to tap a tree and collect the sap. They help to collect the sap and the boiling process is explained to them. The program "Gift of the Maple Tree" is presented to the students. It tells about all the things we received from the maple tree during all 4 seasons of the year for which we can be thankful. All are given the opportunity to taste sap from the maple tree.

Three school groups came to Maplewood this year.

Pelican Rapids School – 17 students

Underwood School – 48 students

Frazee/Vergas School – 79 students

Maple Syrup 2015

It was another interesting year for the maple sap run. For a while it seemed as if no maple sap would be collected. The weather was just too warm too soon. But then the nights got cold and the days warm and the sap did run. The volunteers put out 6 sap runs taping 94 trees and also tapped 12 trees individually with buckets. 670 gallons of sap was collected. Not using buckets is a big time saver for the volunteers when it comes to collecting the sap. Eight different days they boiled the sap to reduce it to 18 gallons of maple syrup. About 305 volunteer hours went in to our maple syrup program.

We are always looking for volunteers to help and learn about maple syrup production. If you are interested just contact nordlake7@hotmail.com or call 218-334-6567. We always try to contact you during the sap season.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE for 2016

Friends of Maplewood membership drive for 2016 starts NOW. Included in this newsletter is a membership sheet. Fill it out and send it to Box 259, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572. If you are a renewal, we only need your name and any changes of address or email. If you are a Snowbird, give us both your addresses so you don't miss the Winter issue. (See BOX below)

Plan to attend the Friends of Maplewood Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 16th, and you can pay your dues that evening.

Another great year in 2015. We had a total of 257 paid memberships which is up 5 over 2014. Remember your dues are used entirely to support Maplewood State Park. Thanks for supporting Maplewood State Park by joining the Friends of Maplewood. Further your support by getting a friend to join. Thanks.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Friends of Maplewood now has 34 Lifetime Members.
Bruce & Kathryn (Ronningen) Anderson

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Friends of Maplewood report a total of \$57,235.87 in their checking accounts.

Do you head south for the winter? The postal service does not forward our newsletter. If you want to receive the winter copy of The Maple Leaf, please send your winter address to:

nordlake7@hotmail.com or call 218-334-6567
or send it to Box 259, Pelican Rapids, 56572

THRIVENT

Friends of Maplewood is now enrolled as a participating organization in Thrivent Choice. If you are a member of Thrivent, you can direct your Choice dollars to the Friends of Maplewood State Park. We appreciate your donation.

MEMORIALS

Remember the Friends of Maplewood when you are giving a memorial. All donations are used to improve Maplewood State Park. Mail them to the Friends group and a thank you receipt will be sent to you.

IN MEMORY OF

Bob Babler

Friends

Joan McMillen

Gerry Rafferty

Walt Spidahl

Betty Schmitz

Clint Hanson

Jerrilyn Baker

GIVEN BY

Dave & Bonnie Weaklend,

Chuck & Mary Sorum,

Bonnie & John Nordstrom

Aubrey & Brenda Ebanks

John McMillen

Kristi & Maynard Pierce

Bonnie & John Nordstrom

Phyllis & Cliff Knutson

Ben Schmitz

Sharon & Ed Fjestad

Bonnie & John Nordstrom

Walt Spidahl died March 7, 2015. We make note of his passing as he was one of the people to develop the downhill ski slopes on Hallaway Hill in Maplewood State Park. The ski hills operated during the 1950s and 1960s.

SUMMER DRAWING CLASSES AT MAPLEWOOD



The summer drawing classes have been well attended. In June the focus was on dragon flies and in July, blooming wild flowers.

The August class was greeted with heat and wind. 8 "artists" participated and our focus was on Monarch butterflies. I discussed their native habitat and the importance of looking after the milkweed plants. We discussed the caterpillar and chrysalis stages and a couple of the children were already well informed and offered good factual additions to our conversation. Of course we drew shapes (triangular wings and body parts), lines (the beautiful network of linear aspects of the wings), and then their glorious color. It was a good time.



By Lila Hauge-Stoffel

RUNNING WILD TRAIL RUN

The Running Wild course navigates through the beautiful, but challenging terrain of northwest Minnesota. There are two race options a 7K trail run or a 1 mile run/hike.



Another great year for the Fourth Annual Running Wild Trail Run at Maplewood State Park on Saturday June

13th. This year brought beautiful sunny skies for runners compared to last years "mud run." More than 80 people came out and registered the day of the race!! Thank you to all the sponsors, participants and volunteers.

Here is the number of participants who came out to Maplewood State Park.

7K- 178

1M LIFE Hike- 78

Kid's Run- 36



Save the date!! 5th Annual Running Wild Trail Run
Saturday, June 11th 2016

Running Wild Trail Run is a fundraiser for Health Resources Center in Fergus Falls.

www.RunningWildTrailRun.com or find us on facebook



CANDLELIGHT SKI

The sky cleared, and that sliver of a moon with Venus hanging below it, and the stars decorating the sky, provided a great backdrop for the candlelight ski. Of course as predicted Mr. Chill was hanging around somewhere between 5 and a -8, but everyone who came was ready and the wind cooperated by disappearing.

It was a good night and we had 33 visitors and 13 Friends workers. As usual people hung around for a long time, enjoying the food, the hike, the fire, and the



conversation. Everybody who went out on the trail at night walked except one person who skied. Many people walked the trail twice.

We had people from Minneapolis, Bismarck, Bloomington, California, Elk River, Stratford, WI and Moorhead as well as some local people. A mother from Bismarck arranged to meet her son and friend from the cities at this event. They skied in the afternoon, ate with us, hiked the trail, and then tried snowshoes. It was the son's birthday and they spent the day with us. They were staying at a motel in Fergus Falls. Always interesting to discover who takes advantage of Maplewood's activities.

Special thanks to those who spent time at the event helping, to those who made bars, and to Karen for making the chili. It is a group project and works very well when we all pitch in to help. We took in \$86.00 in our donation jar, signed up one new member, and renewed 4 members. Had one new person help with the candle lighting and he volunteered. Despite the cold it was a successful event.

ARCHERY



On May 2nd we held an archery in the parks program at Maplewood with 8 individuals attending. This program provides a hands-on instruction in shooting a bow and arrow. Students learn safety, proper techniques for handling and shooting the bow, history of the bow and arrow, and actually shooting a few arrows at designed targets. The class is designed for kids ages 8 and above. No experience is necessary to attend the class and the class is free of charge with all equipment provided. A park vehicle permit is required. The class was taught by certified archery instructor Jeff Fjestad. Look for the 2016 archery in parks program in early May.



Friends of Maplewood
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Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
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Permit #40

ANNUAL MEETING

FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, 2015 6:00 p.m.

Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter

The Friends of Maplewood Annual Meeting is a time for all interested Friends of Maplewood State Park to gather and find out what has been happening at the park. There will be a complete update and full discussion of the sugar shack project. It is also a time to share your thoughts and ideas for Maplewood. We will review 2015.

NO MEAL. Just DESERTS will be served. Come for a taste of ice cream topped with Maplewood's own maple syrup. Bring a friend and join us at Maplewood State Park on Wednesday, September 16th, at 6:00. You can pay your 2016 dues at that time. Thanks for taking the time to help improve Maplewood State Park.