The Maple Leaf

Fall 2016

Friends of Maplewood State Park

Box 259 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

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

Don Del Greco, Park Manager Jeff Fjestad, Assistant Park Manager

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 12 – Annual Meeting Sept. 24-25 Leaf Days Oct. 1 – 2 Leaf Days Feb. 25 – Candlelight Ski April – Maple Syrup Day

Advisory Committee

Steve Nagle, chairperson Alma Ronningen, secretary Stu & Corinne Peterson, treasurer Kay & Denny Albright, membership Char Berger Penny Brynildson **Deb Carpenter** Don & Bonnie Del Greco Carol & Sanford Emery **Judith Engebretson** Jeff Fjestad Barb & Jeff Grunewald Bob & Kathy Hanson Terry Heller Ruth & Van Holmgren Jerry Jacobson/D. Mae Ceryes Cris Kling Diane & Dave Knopf Phyllis & Cliff Knutson Bob & Karen Kreiser Denise Laymon Bonnie & John Nordstrom Sonyia & Dan Oehler Larry & Judy Olson Wayne Runningen Mary & Chuck Sorum Lila & Alex Stoffel Becky Thompson

Friends of Maplewood WEBSITE

friendsofmaplewood.org

MUSIC at MAPLEWOOD



The day was a little chilly, and rain showers sprinkled off and on, but by 7:00 the sun was out, the mosquitoes were nowhere to be found, and 65 people set up their chairs under the Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter. It was a wonderful concert. Lee Brenna and Casey Perrin sang gospel and country songs that left a special

feeling with you. Lee added a few stories from his life which put a smile on your face and made you wonder how his mom and dad survived.

[pictures by Greg Stetz]



It was a great evening of song outside at Maplewood. You know how at sporting events they do the wave to get the crowd fired up. Well, before the concert, we did the wave too, but a little different. Seems when somebody emptied their chair out of the bag, a mouse nest with mommy and babies came out too. Mother mouse dragging her babies scurried around under the chairs causing everyone to raise their legs. A new kind of wave.

Thank you Lee and Casey for the great inspirational evening. They will be back next summer and we'll add to our Music at Maplewood. Look for an event each month. If you have any suggestions for us, please contact John Nordstrom at nordlake7@hotmail.com or 218-334-6567.



NEWS and

Bike, Boots, or Boat Challenge

One of the events for the statewide birthday is the "125 Mile Bike, Boots, or Boat Challenge." A person can print off a mileage tracker and start enjoying the state park's trails. A member of the Friends of Maplewood, Van Holmgren, completed the 125 mile challenge on his bike. He visited a number of state parks and in less than 2 months he had completed the challenge. At Maplewood's 125 year picnic celebration he was given his 125 year sticker. Congratulations Van.

RUNNING WILD TRAIL RUN 2016

It was a beautiful morning for Fifth Annual Running Wild Trail Run at Maplewood State Park. We could not have planned more perfect weather. We had 280 runners come out for the race, all ages, and from all over the country. Our fastest 7K runner for the Men was Hans Frank-Holzner (17) of Fergus Falls at 28:16 and for the ladies Rachel Sakry (21) of Milnor, ND at 35:01. We have had a lot of runners that continue to return to Maplewood each year to participate in Running Wild Trail Run. We look forward to the 6th annual Running Wild Trail Run on Saturday June 10th, 2017. For more information visit www.RunningWildTrailRun.com

Mary Ellen Tungseth and Courtney Larsen

Jane Aschnewitz

Jane passed away on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Jane was a vibrant member of the Friends of Maplewood since 2002. She worked hard and was willing to do most anything. Always present at our meetings and volunteering for any job that needed to be done. It should be noted that she was the one who brought up the idea of giving wagon rides through the park during Leaf Days. For many years she was the one who rode the wagon, giving the talk, all day long, for 2 weekends in a row. It was hard to get her to take a break.

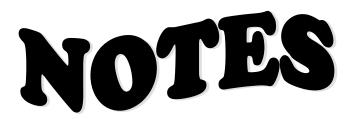
Jane was active in the Chamber of Commerce of both Perham and Pelican Rapids. She was known for starting the turtle races in Perham. For the past few years Jane has not been able to help the Friends group, but she was not forgotten. Her inspiration will be missed as we lost one of our most active members. God Bless the memory of Jane. And thank you Jane. We never said it enough.



125th Anniversary Picnic

Maplewood was selected as one of a handful of Minnesota State Parks to host a Special Commemorative 125th Anniversary Picnic Event at the Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter on July 17th. The beautiful Sunday afternoon event was attended by a variety of park guests, camping families, local residents and summer travelers. The event dovetailed at

the end of the local Pelican Rapids "Pelican Fest" and included various Naturalist programming: MinnAqua programs, old-fashioned games, campfire cooking, kite building and flying, a prairie restoration program, and refreshments. Thanks to Wayne Runningen for his prairie restoration program.



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	GIVEN BY
Marvin Ronningen	Cliff & Phyllis Knutson
	Dennis & Kay Albright
	Jeff & Barb Grunewald
	Van & Ruth Holmgren
	Ed & Sharon Fjestad
Jane Aschnetwtz	Alma Ronningen
	Van & Ruth Holmgren
Ed Hanyzewski	Van & Ruth Holmgren
Jim Beaton	John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Phyllis Haugrud	John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Phyllis Haugrud	Lyle Haugrud
Eldred Kvidt	Scott Kvidt

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. We have received \$152.00 since our last newsletter.

DONATIONS

Thank you **Alma Ronningen** for the donation of a corn grinder.

Thank you **Fred Berg** for the donation of a corn sheller.

Prometheus Motorcycle Club

They donated \$500 to be used on the Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter. The money was used to clean and stain the Picnic Shelter. Also for bark to be used in the native plantings located around the picnic shelter. Thank you for you support.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have 39 Lifetime members. We are happy to announce our newest.

Dave McRoberts
Lisa & Mark Spriggs

THINGS WE NEED

Do you have one to donate or one we could buy??

- 1. Apple Press—like to demonstrate at Leaf Days how the early Maplewood settlers took apples and made apple sauce and apple juice. Or maybe one we could borrow.
- 2. Old barn / shed wood that we can cut up and use for the kids to make bird houses or bird feeders.
- 3. YOKE—put around your neck to carry 2 pails.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$67,000 in our checking account

\$50,042 in our Parks & Trail account

WINTER NEWSLETTER SNOWBIRDS

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, MN 56572

If you have already done so, we have a record of it, so only necessary if new or changes.



SUGAR SHACK

We have started. It is August 29th and Egge Construction has pushed the dirt and sand into the correct height and shape. Gary Wagenman has finished building the forms for the cement floor. Hanson's plumbing has been out to rough in the drains and the pouring of the cement took place August 25th. As you read this the volunteer construction crew under the guidance of David Knopf has begun to build the walls. It is

an exciting time and finally we can see the end of this project. No, unfortunately it will not be totally completed by Leaf Days which was our second plan. (If your memory is good you will remember our first plan was to be done by Leaf Days 2015.) So we move only as fast as we can and it will be done by the time it is finished. No more predictions, but when it is finished completely, shined up good, with an installed evaporator, you can count on it that you will be notified for a grand opening open house complete with some proud Friends of Maplewood standing around looking for something new to work on for Maplewood State Park. And all you people who donated money to make this happen, can stand there also to feel good about this accomplishment.

We have reached our monetary goals. We have earned \$50,000 and have generated with grants and donations another \$50,000. Of course as with any building project there will be cost overruns. So we continue to work raising money to completely finish with no outstanding bills and also to have some money to be used for curriculum materials for all who come to learn. Following is a list of those who have donated to the Sugar Shack. We thank all of them for their contributions. [If we have missed anyone, we apologize. Please notify John Nordstrom so our records can be corrected and with our final thank you, you can be included.]

Tom & Sally Allen Norm & Sue Anderson Erik & Twila Aslesen Jim & Fran Bassett George Bassingthwaite Duane & Cleo Bohne John & Kathy Borge Walt & Glenda Bro Deb Carpenter D. Mae Ceryes Ron & Carol Buckholz Chihos Robert Conn Bonnie & Don DelGreco Georgia & Mel Duncan Ed & Sharon Fjestad Marilyn Folden

Ed & Sharon Fjestad
Marilyn Folden
Linda C. Haibara
Solvieg Halbakken
Terry Heller
John & Nancy Hess
Ruth & Van Holmgren
Lonny & Lisa Hovland
Jerry Jacobson
Merl Johannes
Wayne & Dena Johnson

Roland Jordahl Catherine & Thomas Kane Gary Keller Cliff & Phyllis Knutson Gene & Gwen Koski Scott Kvidt Dorene Kvam Brian & Denise Laymon Elton & Gabi Lezon Lori & Keith Lien Judy Mach Clifford McLain John McMillen Dave McRoberts LaVerne & Roger Moltzen Tom & Polly Musacchia Stephen Nagle Dorene Nelson Lloyd P. & Donna Nelson Dick and Gloria Nord John & Bonnie Nordstrom

Stu & Corinne Peterson

Alma & Marvin Ronningen

Gregory & Tammy Smith

Jan & David Rolfson

Dale & Kari Steenblock Gene & Marion Stoll Bill & Monica Stutsman Galen & Sharon Vaa Ken & Joan Voigt David & Bonnie Weaklend Phletus & Sally Williams Carol Zielinski

Arvig Enterprises, Inc.
CoBank
Del Trust
Detroit Lakes Kiwanis Club
Frank W Veden Char. Trust
Lake Region Electric Cooperative
Larry's Super Market
Lion's Club of Vergas, MN
Otter Tail Power Company
SJE Rhombus
Vergas State Bank

FRIENDS

PICNIC SHELTER WORK

On May 26, 9 volunteer friends spent 4 hours washing the logs in preparation for staining. We scrubbed and power washed all the logs in the picnic shelter. Any free moments were spent weeding the area around the picnic shelter. Thanks to D. Mae Ceryes, Bob Hanson, Terry Heller, Jerry Jacobson, Phyllis & Cliff Knutson, Bonnie & John Nordstrom.

On June 6th, eleven volunteer friends spent 4 1/2 hours staining the logs at the picnic shelter. It was a race against the rain, but we won and the picnic shelter looks good. Again we spent free moments weeding. Thanks to Denny Albright, Mike Beaton, Bob Hanson, Jim Hotzfield, Steve Johnson, John McMillen, Bonnie & John Nordstrom, Alma Ronningen, and Carol & Dave Svingen.

MAPLE SYRUP DAY

Saturday, April 9th was a very cold day. Despite that about 140 people came to Maplewood to learn about the making of maple syrup. Ice cream topped



with maple syrup along with a delicious brunkaka cookie was served to the visitors. We had 2 exciting additions this year. The first was horse drawn wagon rides provided by Brian & Denise Laymon.

Other help came from Keaton Laymon and Deb Jacobson of the Midwest Minnesota Harness Club. The wagon traveled for about ¾ mile loop and it was busy constantly. About 80 people got a chance to ride the wagon. The second was the making and serving of home made ice cream. What a great taste especially when topped with maple syrup. A lot of information about maple syrup was given out. To the volunteers who spent the day greeting and

serving, Judi Engebretson, Alma Ronningen, Kathy Hanson, Cliff & Phyllis Knutson, Carol & Sanford Emery, Van & Ruth Holmgren, and Steve Nagle, a BIG thank you.



R BUSY

CANDLELIGHT SKI

February 20th found us doing battle with Mother Nature again. Little snow and warm temperatures make it very difficult to have a candlelight SKI, but we fooled her. We HIKED. We had to move the trail off into the woods in a few spots because of



standing water. But 95 people came and with a rousing bonfire, hot chili, delicious bars, great exercise, and good conversation, all seemed to have a wonderful time. Thanks to all the members who helped with food, set up and took down candles, and stayed around all night. We'll be back next year to hopefully ski.

ART IN THE PARK FOOD BOOTH

Friends had their food booth in Pelican Rapids in July for Art in the Park. We made a profit of \$454.00 for the day. Thank you to all our volunteers. Lynn & Tom Carlson, Judy Engebretson, Liz & Collin Engebretson, Kathy & Bob Hanson, Kim Haugrud, Van Holmgren, Phyllis & Cliff Knutson, Bonnie & John Nordstrom, Stu Peterson, Stu's grandson Reid, Roberta Reed, Alma Ronningen, Wayne Runningen. Special Thanks to Lake Region Electric for their coffee donation and West Central Turkeys for their donation of turkey.

MAPLE SYRUP 2016

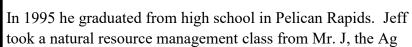
It was a very good maple syrup season. It was our 7th season and it was the best. The volunteers set out 130 taps and collected 1240 gallons of sap which they boiled down into 32 gallons of maple syrup. This was done in 13 separate boils. That is about 467 volunteer hours.

Our set up, demonstration, maple syrup, and clean up crew was Bob Hanson, Loren Abel, Charlie Sorum, Terry Heller, Denny Albright, Ron Hegerle, Jeff Grunewald, and Stu Peterson.

There were 3 school groups (Frazee/Vergas, Pelican Rapids, Underwood) that came to the park to learn about maple syrup. We also had visitors on maple syrup day and at other times. About 350 individuals came to Maplewood during the season to learn about maple syrup. Don DelGreco and Jeff Fjestad take care of most of the school group visitation. We hope to really expand that part of our program once the Sugar Shack is completed.

JEFF FJESTAD - ASSISTANT PARK MANAGER

Back in the 1980's Jeff would come to Maplewood with his mom and dad and enjoy the countryside. Later, as a Boy Scout, he spent many a weekend camping with Troop 313 out in Maplewood State Park. Little did he know that at the age of almost 40, he will have spent half of his life working in this park that he loves.





teacher. Mr. J, knowing that Jeff had an interest in the outdoors, told him about a possible job at Maplewood State Park. With his encouragement Jeff went out and applied. He was hired by Bob Hanson, the Park Ranger, and when Jeff graduated from high school on a Friday, he started work on Monday at Maplewood State Park in a "work experience program".

Jeff continued his education at Fergus Falls Community College for 2 years working summers and fall at Maplewood. While continuing his education at NDSU, he was hired to work seasonally as a Building & Grounds Worker. This was his position even after he graduated in 2000 with a degree in Natural Resource Management. In September of 2003 he was hired as an Assistant Park Manager.

Over the 21 years he has worked at Maplewood he has seen many changes. The electrification of the main campground, the unbelievable changes in tents and those 40 foot 5th wheel trailers, and the horse trailers complete with kitchens and sleeping quarters are some of those changes that stand out. Jeff stated, "Maplewood is becoming busier and busier every year with attendance always on the rise."

Meeting the new visitors is something Jeff enjoys, but he also likes those people who come back all the time and he is on a first name basis with many of them. Fall is his favorite time of the year at Maplewood and his favorite place in the park is in the south part of Maplewood, on the Star Loop. There, high on a hill, close to 21 Lake, is a wonderful view looking south.

Jeff met his wife Tracy at Loony Days in Vergas. She works as an accountant for Ag Country Farm Services in Moorhead. They have been married for 6 years and live in Barnesville.

Jeff has always enjoyed hunting and fishing. Deer hunting with his family is very important to him. Although he finds little time to spend in his shop he does enjoy woodworking. His new love is being a father. Harper Ann Fjestad was born on May 12, 2016. This is how he likes to spend his free time although I think we'll find him out deer hunting again. Thank you Jeff for making Maplewood State Park an important part of your life.



WELCOME

Introducing to you, the newest member of the Friends of Maplewood, **Harper Ann Fjestad**. Born May 12, 2016 at 5 lbs 6 oz. I'm sure she will get to spend many a time at Maplewood State Park. When she reaches the age of 20, what new things will she get to experience at Maplewood? We're hoping a new bike trail as well as some other things we're dreaming about.

DRAWING CLASSES AT MAPLEWOOD

First off, we want to thank Lila Hauge-Stoffel for her time and energy in offering these classes. This summer her 3 classes were drawing wild

flowers, birds, and insects. The classes were well attended and got larger each month. In June there were 23 partici-

pants, July brought 32 participants to Maplewood, and in August a total of 52 adults and children showed up to draw insects. Age was not a factor as people from 3 to 87 came to learn about drawing.

They all had fun learning. Lila is such a gracious host and teacher. It is fun

to just walk around and see kids, families, moms and dads, and grandparents having a

good time drawing nature at Maplewood State Park. I found a mom and daughter who were camping in Maplewood. There was also a mother with 3 children who discovered the drawing class on the website and drove down from Moorhead. A grandmother with her 2 grandkids came from New York Mills, a couple from Monticello who came to go kayaking, and 2 families from Foley who were here camping are just a few of the people who came to draw insects. The list

could go on and on.

A few of the pictures tell the story of how much fun and interest the people were experiencing.





"National & State Parks on the Air" Event

On Saturday, April 2, five amateur radio operators (Ham Radio) from the St. Cloud unit journeyed to Maplewood to activate the North Country Scenic Trail (TR04). The Radio Unit joined with MN State Parks and the NPS to celebrate Minnesota State Parks & Trails 125th anniversary and the National Park Service's 100th Anniversary with a transmissions/ operations event in Maplewood. By 11:30 AM two stations were on the air, one on 20 meters using a mono band vertical antenna, the other on 40



meters using a windom antenna. Over 250 contacts were logged in 4 1/2 hours of operation talking with stations in 45 states (including Hawaii), Guam, three Canadian Provinces and even a rare transmission from an aeronautical station aboard a Boeing 767 traveling over Kansas. The group invited Maplewood State Park Manager, Don DelGreco to make a few radio contacts to Arizona and Alabama.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd ANNUAL PLEIN AIR PAINTING EVENT

Saturday, September 17th

Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter, Maplewood State Park

Registration: \$45.00

Contact Information: Lila Hauge-Stoffel

218-770-1627

There will be a presentation/demonstration of Plein Air Painting by guest artist Carl Oltvedt, retired prof. of the School of Visual Arts, MSUM. After lunch there will be on-location drawing and painting under the direction of Carl Oltvedt and later a critique of the day's efforts. If you are interested please contact Lila for more information.

Leaf Day North Country Trail Hikes

The Glacial Edge Chapter will be holding guided hikes on the North Country Trail each of the four days of Leaf Days. The plan is to meet at the Trail Center at 10am each day.

Come join the fun and leave the GUIDING to us.



LEAF DAYS Sept 24-25 Oct. 1-2

We will have our usual wagon rides with a little history of Maplewood as you travel the road.

We will have activities both weekends, but nothing planned yet except for the guided hikes.

The Friends of Maplewood will be selling food, clothing, and Maple Syrup at the Picnic Shelter.



It is the time of year that the Friends of Maplewood needs lots of volunteers. We need people to serve food, cook brats, sell clothing, direct traffic, visit about Maplewood with people, or help with one of our many activities. Nothing is too difficult and it is always an enjoyable time. Please volunteer to help for as much time as you can spare. Contact John Nordstrom at 218-334-6567 or nord-lake7@hotmail.com.

We are always looking for new activities to offer during Leaf Days. If you have an idea or skill or craft to offer contact John Nordstrom. People, especially children, who come to Maplewood to look at the leaves and beauty of Fall are also interested in doing different activities.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE for 2017

<u>Friends of Maplewood membership drive for 2017 starts NOW.</u> Included in this newsletter is a membership sheet. Fill it out and sent to Box 259, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 or bring it to the Annual Meeting. 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.

Another great year in 2016. We had a total of 270 paid memberships which is up 13 over 2015. 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.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee is attempting to do some reconfiguration. Most of the time we have no trouble getting people to volunteer to help. What we do have trouble with is getting people to be in charge of events. We spent a lot of time at our last Advisory meeting talking about this. So we are going to attempt to go with committees for each event. These are our events for 2016-2017 and the committees.

Annual Meeting food: Ruth Hol	mgren, Karen Kreiser, Rut	h Holt
Leaf Days: Deb Bruns, Ruth & \	Van Holmgren, Ruth Holt, I	Bob Kreiser, John Nordstrom
Candlelight Ski: 1	2	3. Ruth Holt
Maple Syrup production: 1. Bo	b Hanson 2	
Maple Syrup Day: 1. Phyllis & C	Cliff Knutson 2	
Maple Syrup School Group Orga	anizer: 1	2
Sugar Shack: Stu Peterson witl	h David Knopf as contracto	or

Another problem is to find a chairperson for our Advisory Committee. It seems that once you become chairperson, you end up being there and nobody will take it over. We decided that a term limit is necessary and that the chairperson should be chosen or elected by the Advisory Committee. To begin the process John Nordstrom accepted being President through the 2017 Annual Meeting and Denise Laymon volunteered to be the Chairperson elect.

What do we need: We need some people to volunteer to be on the Advisory Committee and then in time, serve on a committee. You can be a snowbird. The Advisory Committee will have a meeting in January, May, August, and Annual Meeting in September. Think about it. Would you be willing to serve on the Friends of Maplewood Advisory Committee or one of their committees? The Friends of Maplewood has been successful in establishing some great events for Maplewood State Park, but we are in need of finding people to help continue them. Many of us have been on the Advisory Committee for 10 to 16 years and we need a volunteer transfusion. New ideas, new excitement, new vision, new helpers. We aren't quitting, we just need help.

WILL YOU HELP? Call John 218-334-6567 or email

nordlake7@hotmail.com



2017 Membership Application Form

dress:	
one Number:	
nail:	
Membership Type:	Annual Membership Dues:
New Member	Single \$5
Renewal	Couple \$10
	Family \$25
	Lifetime \$500
	*Make checks payable to: Friends of Maplewood

Send membership application to:

Friends of Maplewood Box 259 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

U.S. Postage PAID Pelican Rapids, MN Permit #40

Friends of Maplewood Box 259 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 Address Service Requested

ANNUAL MEETING

FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 2016 6:30 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 an update on the Sugar Shack. [Come early & stop up to see that the Sugar Shack has taken shape.] It is also a time to share your thoughts and ideas for Maplewood. We will review 2016.

<u>Light meal will be served</u>. 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 Monday, September 12th, at 6:30. You can pay your 2017 dues at that time. Thanks for taking the time to help improve Maplewood State Park.