



The Maple Leaf









Fall 2017

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. 7—Annual Meeting Sept. 14—Dedication Sugar Shack Sept. 23-24—Leaf Days Sept.30-Oct. 1—Leaf Days Feb. 24 – Candlelight Ski April ? – Maple Syrup Day

Advisory Committee

John Nordstrom, chairperson Denise Laymon, chairperson elect Alma Ronningen, secretary Stu & Corinne Peterson, treasurer Kay & Denny Albright, membership 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 Ruth Holt Jerry Jacobson/D. Mae Cerves Diane & Dave Knopf Phyllis & Cliff Knutson Bob & Karen Kreiser Brian Laymon Steve Nagle **Bonnie Nordstrom** Cris Oehler Sonyia & Dan Oehler Larry & Judy Olson Wayne Runningen Mary & Chuck Sorum Scott & Stephanie Stenshoel Becky Thompson

The **MISSION** of the Friends of Maplewood State Park is to support and encourage the Park's recreational, interpretive, educational and environmental activities through leadership, volunteerism, program development, and fund raising.

LEAF DAYS

September 23-24 Sept. 30-October 1

It's official. The news just arrived that the leaves will turn colorful again this year. That means it is time to come to Maplewood State Park and join in the celebration of the changing season. We will have wagon rides and many more activities for all ages to enjoy. The Friends of Maplewood will be selling food, clothing, and maple syrup at the picnic shelter. Come hike, marvel at the color, and enjoy the many activities.

We are always looking for new ideas for Leaf Days. Displays, demonstrations, or things to teach. If you have an idea for us, please take the time to contact the Friends. We'll do the leg work. We have a person who usually spends a day talking about edible plants. We have 2 weekends and would like to find another person who might do that. Do you know of someone? We appreciate all suggestions of people or ideas. Thanks.

Friends of Maplewood WEBSITE

friendsofmaplewood.org





BIRDHOUSE WINNER

Gloria Nord builds unique birdhouses. She built this birdhouse and donated it to the Friends of Maplewood. During Leaf Days we sold raffle tickets and

the winner of the birdhouse was Paul Haarstick. Paul is from the cities area, but has roots in Vergas, MN. Congratulations Paul and thank you Gloria Nord for your wonderful donation.

RUNNING WILD TRAIL RUN 2017

The numbers for the 6th Annual Trail Run are history. There were 273 total participants. 187 of them entered the 7K. The



fastest time for the men was Daniel Rueckert from Sauk Rapids at 31:25. Cassie Flach from Fargo had the fastest women's time at 33:24.

44 people participated in the 1 mile run and 43 did the kids run.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, June 9th, 2018

For more information check out their website: www.RunningWildTrailRun.com



SUMMER ART at MAPLEWOOD

Our Summer Art classes were started and maintained by Lila Stoffel. It had become a successful summer offering at Maplewood State Park. Then in 2017 Lila and her husband decided to make Arizona their permanent home. Our search for a replacement took us to Viking Elementary. After a meeting with Heidi Smith, the Pelican Rapids elementary art teacher, she volunteered to

offer two art classes in July and August. The July art class Drawing Maplewood was attended by 6 people. In August she offered painting with water colors and she prepared for 30. The participants of all ages kept coming until there were 53

people at Maplewood for her class. Many came from the campground, but also from Pelican Rapids and Fergus Falls. There was one participant from Seattle, Washington. It was a very successful day and all 53 of them got to paint with water colors. The results were wonderful.





The Friends of Maplewood want to say thank you to Heidi for continuing

our art classes at Maplewood. We look forward to new art classes next summer. Heidi already has an idea for a Fall project using rocks. We'll get the word out to everyone.





LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have 46 Lifetime members. We are happy to announce our newest.

Paulette & Chester Nettestad

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

Cecil Femling

GIVEN BY

Dave Gilbertson Dean Fife Verna Dirkman Carol Toso Cliff & Phyllis Knutson John & Bonnie Nordstrom Bonnie & Don DelGreco Ed & Sharon Fjestad Dick & Phyllis Rossow Bob & Mary Bowers Lyndon & Kim Johnson Brian & Denise Laymon Bob & Mary Bowers

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 \$465.00 since our last newsletter from:

Terry Heller David A. Rolfson

DONATIONS

Thomas Hintgen—money donation Sally Williams—carrying yoke Lake Region Electric—styrofoam cups

THINGS WE NEED

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

- 1. Old barn / shed wood that we can cut up and use for the kids to make bird houses or bird feeders.
- 2. Old wooden pails for our Maple Syrup demonstration display.
- 3. Looking for about 20 granite rocks the size of a softball or little bigger. Any shape.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$35,980.28 in our checking account

\$1747.03 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 DEDICATION

On September 14th, 2017, at 3:00 in the afternoon, a proud group of volunteers will be turning over the keys to a brand new Sugar Shack building to the State Park System. It has been a long seven years since the concept of doing maple syrup at Maplewood State Park was first proposed. Dreams can become reality with lots of hard work, and some very generous individuals and groups. You are invited to the Dedication Day Ceremony at the Sugar Shack. Below you will find the program for our ceremony.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS OF DNR SUGAR SHACK HISTORY RECOGNITION OF DONORS OFFICIAL GIFTING OF THE KEY DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES—State Parks FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD—MAPLE SYRUP COMMITMENT CLOSING & THANK YOU Don DelGreco John Nordstrom Stu Peterson Denise Laymon

John Nordstrom Jeff Fjestad

There will be TOURS of the Sugar Shack, EXPLANATIONS of the Evaporator and REFRESHMENTS If you decide to come, please bring a lawn chair.

85 different people, groups, trusts donated a total of \$57,661.00 for the Sugar Shack building. A great big thank you to all of them.

CONTRACTORS and SUPPLIERS

Arntson Electric Egge Construction Esser's Plumbing & Heating Franklin Fence Co. Inc. Gary Wagenman Construction Hanson's Plumbing & Heating Hebron Brick Mike Hellerud Painting David Knopf Construction Lake Region Electric Cooperative Minnesota DNR Parks and Trails Perham Steel & Welding Roth Sugar Bush Air Tight Insulation—Rick Sauer Stenerson Lumber



SUGAR SHACK - \$500 & Up

"Our Sweet Donors" Arvig Enterprises, Inc. CoBank Roger and Agnes Dell Trust Egge Construction Frank W Veden Charitable Trust Hanson's Plumbing & Heating Terry Heller Sam & Marti Jones Gary Keller David Knopf Construction Lake Region Electric Cooperative Larry's Supermarket Lions Club of Vergas Minnesota Brian & Denise Laymon Clifford McLain Tom & Polly Musacchia Dorene Nelson John & Bonnie Nordstrom Otter Tail Power Company Stu & Corinne Peterson SJE Rhombus Gary Wagenman Construction David & Bonnie Weaklend



MAPLE SYRUP DEMONSTRATION DAY

What a wonderful day we had on Saturday, April 8th. It was a very tiring day as over 400 cars entered the park and calculating the size of groups leads us to believe there were from 1200 to 1500 people. The Friends of Maplewood had 28 volunteers who spent 5-8 hours in the sun, talking and teaching and serving everyone who visited Maplewood State Park.



Our volunteers gave tours of the new sugar shack and explained how the new evaporator worked. People could drive out and see how we collected the sap from the trees. For those not wanting to drive we had examples set up around

the sugar shack area with pails and bags and an opportunity to drill a hole and put in a tap. We also demonstrated how Native Americans cooked the sap using hot rocks in a hollowed out log. Many charts were displayed showing various aspects of the syrup making process. One could even try carrying two pails of sap with an old shoulder yoke.



At the trail center we had treats available for the visitors. Homemade ice cream with maple syrup topping was a big hit. There were other treats as well as hot dogs and brats for lunch. Maple candy was being made and served to the visitors. Another activity was to go on a horse drawn wagon ride.



About 250 people took a ride that day. If you still had energy you could use a GPS and try to find the hidden maple leaves out in the woods.

From listening to many of the visitors we know that they all had a good time. A big thank you to the volunteers. Hope to see you all next year at our Maple Syrup Demonstration Day.

Maple Syrup Season 2017

Our first season to use the new evaporator in our new Sugar Shack and the sap did not cooperate. Not only didn't it run, it seemed to be crawling. We tapped our first tree on March 3rd, took a collection of sap on March 6th of 130 gallons and that was the best day. Our final collection of sap was on April 7th for a total of 550 gallons, which compared to less than half of last year's collection of 1240 gallons. With great expectations we put out 190 taps as the new evaporator would have allowed us to boil down a lot more sap. In the end we had 13 gallons of maple syrup, but only 5 gallons will be able to be bottled and sold. Some of the sap was collected too late and had a bad taste. Our season will use the catch phrase of "wait until next year".

SUGAR SHACK NOTES

The Sugar Shack is completed. OK it still needs a little fine tuning, but it was operable this season and the building came in under budget. Well we did keep adjusting our budget, but we did come in under our final adjustment. Total cost to the Friends of Maplewood was \$99,137.85. If you haven't been to take a look, it is worth the drive. We'll have it open during Leaf Days in September. The State has finished the landscaping and we are ready to demonstrate and teach for years to come.

We can't give David Knopf, our lead contractor, enough praise. The weather was on our side. To think we started in August and finished up on the 5th of December was remarkable. Somewhere around 1000 volunteer hours by around 25 different Friends of Maplewood went into the Sugar Shack building. A BIG shout out to Ron Hegerle and Terry Heller who worked almost every day that David Knopf was there.

A special thanks to Sam Jones who donated the evaporator & other critical equipment (\$10,000) that is the heart beat of our Sugar Shack. It is a very nice addition to our Maplewood State Park Maple Sugar program.

We've come a long way in 7 years.







Maple Syrup School Groups

The maple syrup demonstration to school groups was expanded with the use of some

Friends volunteers to add to the Park Ranger's program. With our new sugar shack we used 3 stations after the program introduction. One station went through the sugar shack, another



learned how Native Americans boiled sap using rocks, and a third station taught them about maple trees. The kids even got to carry a couple of pails using a shoulder yoke. Three different



schools came to Maplewood: Frazee/Vergas, Underwood, and Rothsay. Next year we hope to expand our numbers.

music at maplewood

JEFF JOHNSON June 17

It was a wonderful music and story filled evening at Maplewood State Park. The rain stopped long enough for 55 people to gather under the Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter. As Jeff Johnson begin singing the rain started to fall again and continued until his final song. Jeff's beautiful voice entertained us with some familiar love songs and great John Denver music. Between the songs he shared some of his stories and memories of Maplewood. As a youth he would saddle up his horse, head to Maplewood to ride, and spend the night out under the stars listening to nature's night sounds, some that caused him to worry a little. A special treat was to hear a couple of songs that Jeff has written. One was called "Skunk Hill Road" and told of this road and some of the things that took place there. His final song was a ballad he wrote about his dad which was fitting being the next day was Father's Day. He entitled it "The Hymn Singer". Everett sang at many funerals. One line repeated in the song was "He brought Heaven a little closer to home". If you knew Everett the song reminded you that if he passed you on the street, he always had the time to stop, chat, share a story, or a good laugh.

CASEY PERRIN AND LEE BRENNA July 29

Casey Perrin and Lee Brenna entertained around 120 people with a variety of songs. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed Casey's beautiful voice, Lee's backup on the guitar and his wonderful stories which kept the people laughing. Under the evening skies it was a fun evening filled with music.

ORDINARY FOLK August 26

Our last summer Music at Maplewood concert is scheduled for August 26. The concert will probably already have been by the time you receive the newsletter. These musicians play old time mountain music on traditional instruments. Some of the instruments are guitar, mountain dulcimer, bowed psaltery, hammered dulcimer, uke, fiddle, banjo, and mandolin. Gary Jorgensen, Phyllis Jorgensen, and Dave Rogers make up the trio of musicians.



DONATED YOKE

Sometimes I put in the newsletter requests

for volunteers or requests for needs for the Friends of Maplewood. Last February I put in a request for a yoke to carry pails. I'd been looking all over for one of these and was I surprised when I got a call from Sally Williams that she had

one that she would donate. When I went to pick it up she told me that her grandfather was Dutch and he always told her how he used a yoke to carry milk pails. So 50 years ago when Sally was wandering through an antique store in Michigan she spotted one and purchased it. Now it needed a new home and what better place than Maplewood State Park where lots of kids will be able to experience carrying some tree sap in two pails.



Do you have an old pioneer artifact that needs a new home? Maybe the Friends could put it to use during Leaf Days or Maple Syrup Demonstration Day. Let me know and thank you Sally and Phletus. It is appreciated.

REMEMBERING BRAD SWENSON

One day the Friends of Maplewood's mail box was stuffed full of envelopes. I thought we had received a number of new memberships, but I discovered in opening them that they were memorials for Brad Swenson. Although Brad was unknown to us, after some research, and viewing his pictures on his website, www.bradswensonphotos.com, I realized that he had a close bond with Maplewood State Park. In talking with his wife and parents, I learned he would leave early in the morning to take pictures and Maplewood State Park was one of his favorite places to go. When Brad would go for his chemo treatment, he would write poems. They gave me permission to print one of them.

Outside

I am tall outside, no hearth or transom to bend me. No doors or clutter to squeeze me. I can breathe outside, no masks, tubes, or hands to choke me. No feet on my chest or rasp to rob me. I am alive outside, free from the demand of poison and perfection. The isolation reveals itself. Quietly...peacefully...patiently. No one waiting on me, no need to be filled, no sacrifice to be made. No darkness to hold me, no illness to bind me, no sadness to burden me. I chase the light outside, golden dawn to warm dusk, bookends to illuminate the natural order. I find meaning in the gently lit space – amongst the small and ordinary. Light lifts the darkness, delivers the antidote, and provides the wood to build my cross. Free to be small, to be ordinary, and to be a saved and unbroken part of the natural order. © Brad Swenson



MIGRATION



GARLAND

The Friends of Maplewood received over 30 memorials for just over \$2500. The Friends of Maplewood will work with Brad's wife to find a way for Maplewood State Park to remember Brad's love of nature.

REMEMBERING

This past year, January 27, 2017, **Cecil Femling** passed away. As a Friend of Maplewood, Cecil was a wealth of information about Maplewood State Park as he grew up on land that is located right next to Maplewood. He could tell stories from years ago about how people used the land that became Maplewood to make a living and to have fun. Cecil was a member of the Friends of Maplewood and never missed an annual meeting, even being here one evening when it was his ninety something birthday. His ready information about Maplewood will be missed.

Lyle R. Tweten, a member of the Friends of Maplewood Advisory committee since the year 2000, passed away on March 23, 2017. Lyle got involved with the Friends of Maplewood to spread the word about the Maplewood State Park. It was important to him as an owner of the Spirit Lake Bed and Breakfast to have places for his guests to visit and Maplewood was just one of those places. He helped with fundraising and for many years took care of all the news releases for the Friends group. As a member of the Friends of Maplewood he helped us to pursue many new ideas.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE for 2018

Friends of Maplewood membership drive for 2018 starts NOW. 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 2017. We had a total of 299 paid memberships which is up 29 over 2016. 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 looking for some new members. These are the people who meet in January, April, and August to help plan events and projects.

Would you be willing to serve? Call John 218-334-6567 or email nordlake7@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Leaf days is a time that the Friends of Maplewood need help. It is 4 days that require about 25 people each day to keep everything running. Would you be willing to volunteer your time for one day, two days, or even a half a day. Our hours are from 10:00—4:00. There are many different ways you can serve. Some of them are working at a demonstration place. Don't worry, if you don't feel comfortable there, we'll find another job. But all the demonstration places are easy to operate and we can teach you very quickly. Listed below find examples of some of the opportunities.

Truck driver to pull wagon Sharing Maplewood story (wagon) Sell food Sell clothes Membership display Maple Syrup display Apple press demonstration Making Handkerchief Doll Corn shelling demonstration Nature art Making butter with churn Grilling brats/hotdogs Rope making Scavenger Hunt Games demonstration GPS—finding maple leaves Sugar Shack Bird house / feeders



Contact John Nordstrom 218-334-6567 or 218-841-7673 nordlake7@hotmail.com

THE RANGER REPORT



PARK MANAGER HEADLINE STORIES 2017 Don Del Greco

The early spring warm-up and picture-perfect summer weather has set the stage for a very memorable outdoor recreation summer for thousands of visitors to Maplewood. As we savor the joy and beauty of summer, please see some of the latest highlights and stories of 2017 as noted below.

<u>-Maplewood on pace for another record setting year in 2017</u>: Over 143,000 visitors enjoyed the wonder of Maplewood in 2016. In 2017 the visitation numbers continue to swell with current attendance numbers ahead of last year's record pace. A notable story for the 2017 is the consistent "picture-perfect" weather conditions, especially on weekends, and the early spring warm-up. Overall camping is above record levels with horse riding & horse camping at above record levels in 2017.

<u>-Park Staff</u>: Park staff have worked efficiently and effectively to maintain and operate the park during what is one of our busiest summers in recent memory as we continue to serve park visitors at a record attendance pace. We are thankful for their excellent work and resiliency.

-<u>State Climatology Weather Station installed at Maplewood</u>: The data collected from the station will help monitor weather and climate changes over time and the information will be used in communicating this data to the public.

<u>-2017 Winter:</u> Although just a memory, the 2017 Winter offered about one month of very good snow conditions in January, however the warm mid-winter thaw melted our hopes of a the Maplewood Candlelight Ski Event for the first time in many years the event was cancelled. The lack of snow and cold weather set the stage for winter anglers, extended hiking opportunities and great winter camping cabin use at Maplewood.

<u>-"You – are – Here" Trail Map Signs</u>: This project continues to provide park guests with enhanced guidance and orientation on Maplewood's diverse and extensive trail system. The project included the installation of 63 newly designed "You-are-Here" Trail Signs at various locations throughout Maplewood's trail system and was installed with the help of park staff and the Conservation Corps of MN (CCM).

Record Attendance: New Sugar Shack/Maple Syrup Demonstration Day, April 8, 2017: The 2017 Maple syrup programing season concluded with blue skies and a beautiful 70 degree day. The Friends of Maplewood (25 volunteers) hosted over 1,500 people of all ages that were in attendance for a successful day of introducing guests to the wonder of maple-syrup.

-<u>Maple syrup season</u>: Compared to the record-setting season of 2016, the 2017 season started early and faded quickly as the "perfect" conditions for collecting sap were limited to the early season. The great news is the continued expansion of the interpretive programs to local schools (Vergas/Frazee, Rothsay, and Underwood Schools.)

<u>-New Vehicle Permit Fees:</u> Beginning on July 1, 2017, Minnesota State Park vehicle permit fees: Annual Permit: \$35.00 Additional Annual permit: \$26.00 Handicapped Annual Permit: \$12.00 Daily Permit: \$7.00 <u>-New Self-registration Station welcomes park guests</u>: The newly designed self-registration station at the Park Office/contact station greets customers with consolidated information for guiding park visitors into the park when the office is closed. The station includes maps, instructions on purchasing permits, and a courtesy phone and Wi-Fi services for campsite registration. The new design helps modernize our services and better meet our customer needs.

- Minnesota State Parks became 100% Reservable ("guaranteed") campsites for all campground
- "Same Day" Campsites Reservations with no reservation fee & more self-registration services.

-<u>The Maplewood Sugar Shack Partnership Project</u>: This unique partnership has been supported by many generous donations of time, talent and resources. We look forward look to the upcoming developments for this interpretive/educational facility at Maplewood.

-Legacy Prairie Restoration Auto/Driving Tour Brochures/Signs: This colorful and informational pamphlet is available for park guests to take along with them as they drive through the park to learn about the various sign- marked prairie sites in Maplewood.

<u>-Prairie restoration resource work continues with several prescribed burns</u>: Favorable weather made for excellent prescribed burn conditions in several locations at Maplewood this spring and early summer with efforts focused in the Beers Lake restoration units.

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

<u>New Horse Campground Trail Informational Kiosk:</u> New Interpretive panels will soon be installed at this recently installed project designed for Horse Riders. This project was funded through the Minnesota State Horse Pass revenues.

Special/Improvement Projects:

-Sugar Shack Parking lot & landscaping Project: completion of the landscaping and parking lot at new Sugar Shack facility.

- -Campground Blacktop Road Patching Project: Removal and re-paving of large frost boils
- -Electrical Lighting/Energy efficiency projects: LED light conversion and motion sensor installations.
- -Gravel Road Projects: Gravel supply inventory received a large boost for ongoing road improvement projects.
- -Plumbing repair/upgrade: Fixtures at Beach, Main Campground Sanitation buildings, RV Dump station.
- -Boat rental dock improvements: Installation of new dock platforms at Beers Lake watercraft rental site.
- -New: Paddleboards are now available for rent at Maplewood State Park (Grass Lake)

Events 2017

Friends of Maplewood Annual Maple Syrup Demonstration Day – April 8, 2017 Horse Enduro Maplewood West Competitive Ride – June 3-4, 2016 6th Annual Running Wild-Maplewood State Park 7K Trail Run – June 10, 2017 Ribbon-cutting Legacy Prairie Restoration Projects Celebration Event-September 14, 2017 Leaf Days Sept 23-24 and Sept 30-Oct 1

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 and look forward to gathering together to enjoy the wonder of Maplewood.





Friends of Maplewood Box 259 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 Address Service Requested U.S. Postage PAID Pelican Rapids, MN Permit #40



FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOODTHURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 20166:30 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. Come early & stop up to see the completed Sugar Shack. It is also a time to share your thoughts and ideas for Maplewood. We will review 2017 with a power point presentation.

<u>Desserts will be served. NO meal.</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 Thursday, September 7^h, at 6:30. You can pay your 2018 dues at that time. Thanks for taking the time to help improve Maplewood State Park.