

# The Maple Leaf

Winter/Spring 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:**

Feb. 25 – Candlelight Ski  
April 8 – Maple Syrup Day

## **Advisory Committee**

John Nordstrom, **chairperson**  
Denise Laymon, **chairperson elect**  
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  
Ruth Holt  
Jerry Jacobson/D. Mae Ceryes  
Diane & Dave Knopf  
Phyllis & Cliff Knutson  
Bob & Karen Kreiser  
Brian Laymon  
Steve Nagle  
Bonnie Nordstrom  
Cris Oehler  
Sonya & Dan Oehler  
Larry & Judy Olson  
Wayne Runningen  
Mary & Chuck Sorum  
Lila & Alex Stoffel  
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.

We received this note with an Annual Membership Renewal. I thought you would enjoy the special feeling she has for Maplewood State Park. Also gives the people who work and volunteer at Maplewood a good feeling.

"I sure miss going to Maplewood Park. Being at the Nursing Home we don't get out much. We use to go on rides, but we do not have seat belts in the outfit they used, so we missed the fall leaves too. I so enjoy the news of Maplewood Park. Read all of it. The Syrup Shack sounds great. Keep up the good works like you always do! I think of you often and what's going on at Maplewood.     Love, Doris Ishaug"

Thank you Doris for reminding us of what a treasure we have in our backyard. Keep spreading the word about Maplewood State Park.

Friends of Maplewood WEBSITE  
**[friendsofmaplewood.org](http://friendsofmaplewood.org)**

# SUGAR SHACK 2017



It was getting dark as they packed up the ladders and scaffolding on December 5th, but it was time and the snow would be arriving that night. How lucky we were that our good weather held until Dave Knopf and a dedicated crew of volunteers were able to finish all the outside work on the Sugar Shack. The shack is now enclosed, insulated and weather tight. Now we can heat the inside, get it wired, put up the metal walls, install the evaporator, and finish off those few other things that need to be done. We will be open for business this 2017 maple sap season. It is exciting for us to realize that this really is going to be done. There were times when we wondered if it would ever happen.

We have some great local contractors who have been there when we needed them. Egge Construction, Gary Wagenman Construction, Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Arntson Electric, Hanson's Plumbing, Stenerson Lumber, Franklin Fence, and of course, the man who makes it all happen, Dave Knopf. Dave is a very conscientious contractor who fit in his work at Maplewood with his other jobs that he had going. Our Sugar Shack is done with great care to every detail.

We have had many volunteers who have worked on the Sugar Shack. Some like Ron Hegerle and Terry Heller spent a lot of time helping Dave. I don't know if Ron missed a single work day. Knowing that I probably missed a couple of people, I counted 24 different people who spent a total of 500 volunteer hours working on the Sugar Shack.

This summer some more finishing touches and landscaping will be completed and then with trumpets and fanfare we will have the ribbon cutting ceremony and turn the keys over to Maplewood State Park. We're going to wait until it is looking completed, but you are welcomed to come visit during the sap season and watch or help the crew at work. And you can be sure we'll let you know the date and time of our celebrated ribbon cutting.

# MAPLE SYRUP DEMONSTRATION DAY

**APRIL 8th**

**10:00 to 3:00**

**Maplewood State Park**

We will be demonstrating maple syrup production and offering you some maple treats. Our new evaporator in our new Sugar Shack will be in operation. Volunteers will be available to answer all your questions.



Learn how to tap a tree.



See how the new evaporator works



Learn the process from tree to table

## OTHER OFFERINGS

1. Taste ice cream topped with maple syrup
2. Hike the mile loop around Cataract Lake
3. Use GPS to find the hidden Maple Leaves
4. Brats & Hot Dogs will be available for sale
5. Horse Drawn Wagon Rides



## VERGAS MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

Vergas holds its annual celebration on April 8th. Some of their activities are the pancake breakfast, 8:00—noon, and a 5K Maple Syrup Run at 9:00, (registration is at 8:00). View other offerings at [www.cityofvergas.com](http://www.cityofvergas.com).

## MAPLE SYRUP SEASON 2017

Our maple syrup season is soon coming. It's difficult to schedule an exact time because it all depends on Mother Nature and the freezing and thawing temperatures. We always welcome people to come and help us, and learn about maple syrup. If you are interested in helping or watching you can call Maplewood, 218-863-8383, Bob Hanson, 218-758-2132 or email [nordlake7@hotmail.com](mailto:nordlake7@hotmail.com). We'll gladly take your name and contact you when we get started. If you want to come out and watch some day, call Maplewood to make sure the volunteers are operating that day.





# PLEIN AIR

3rd Annual



On Saturday, September 17th, 13 people who have an interest in painting showed up at Maplewood State Park to study painting in nature under the guidance of guest artist Carl Oltvedt. Carl is a retired professor of the School of Visual Arts, MSUM. It was a beautiful sunshine filled day just right to sit out in nature and paint. In the morning they listened to Carl as he demonstrated techniques. The afternoon they spread out in nature and did their own painting. Later they returned to talk about their results. Thank you to Lila Hauge-Stoffel for organizing this event. Lila also has drawing classes at Maplewood during the summer.

## **2016 - Minnesota State Parks and Trails Celebrating 125 Years—looking forward to 2017**

In 2016 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division celebrated the 125th Anniversary of Minnesota State Parks. Looking ahead to 2017 we have much to celebrate and treasure. 2016 has been blessed with some of the finest overall weather conditions for outdoor recreation in recent years. Maplewood's beautiful forests, colorful prairies and sparkling lakes hosted a new record number of over 143,000 guests. We are gratified to see the increased numbers of new and returning park guests enjoying the wonder and beauty of Minnesota's natural treasures in 2016.

We are thankful to the Friends of Maplewood for your ongoing partnership with Minnesota State Parks and Trails in our working together to help preserve some of the most beautiful places in Minnesota by helping provide places where you can bond with your family and friends and build memories that last a lifetime. We cordially invite all Friends of Maplewood members to join in the various festivities, projects and special programs of the upcoming year as we highlight and celebrate the exemplary progress of the Friends of Maplewood Sugar Shack Project in 2017.

Don Del Greco, Park Manager

## **2016 Deer Hunting -Maplewood State Park**

Nearly 100 deer hunters participated in the 2016 special deer hunt at Maplewood. The 4-day deer hunt (November 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>) was a good, safe, and wonderful experience for hunters. Unseasonably warm weather with temps in the 60s and near 70s greeted the hunters this year. To manage the deer herd within the park, a special deer hunt has been held each year since the early 1980's. The purpose of the hunt is to protect native plant diversity and restoration efforts from over-browsing by deer.

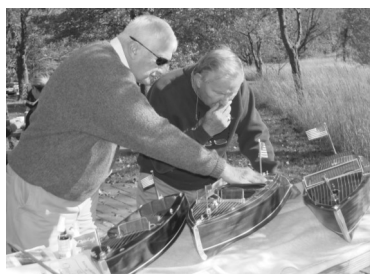
Hunters who desire to participate in the park hunt need to apply through the DNR Electronic Licensing System (ELS) in early September. The DNR ELS system issues licenses through 1,500 license agent locations throughout Minnesota or via the DNR Web site at [mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov) or via a toll free telephone number (1-888-665-4236). The DNR License Bureau notifies the 100 successful applicants by early October and specific hunt information is sent to each successful applicant. Approximately 370 hunters applied for the 100 available licenses. Unsuccessful applicants will gain a preference point for the next year's lottery. The more preference points a hunter has the better chance at getting drawn. (Successful hunters usually have three or four preference points, which means they had applied for 3 and 4 years).

A total of 52 deer were harvested during the 2016 Special Deer Hunt.

Jeff Fjestad



# Leaf Days



of Maplewood provide many activities during those 2 weekends. Being successful is only a result of those many Friends who volunteer their time to help. It takes about 25 volunteers to make each day become a reality. Over the course of the 4 days we had a total of 66 different people volunteer their time. Some worked only half a day but many of them worked 2, 3, and even all 4 days. They spent time teaching and showing how things work, serving the thousands of visitors to Maplewood, helping set everything up and clean up afterwards, and always talking to those visitors about what there is to do in Maplewood. You all leave a great impression on the visitors to Maplewood, and know that many will return because of your good will. Please note that we are always looking for volunteers to help us during Leaf Days. If you have some spare time, we sure would appreciate spending some of it at Maplewood during Leaf Days.

The phone lines are always open to volunteer: 218-334-6567 or nordlake7@hotmail.com.

## LEAF DAYS 2017

**September 23-24 and September 30—October 1**

Weekend 1 which wasn't very nice had a visitation of 500 cars. Weekend 2 which was beautiful saw 2000 cars come to Maplewood. All this, along with our hard work, resulted in a profit of about \$5900.00 for Maplewood. Van Holmgren said he made about 40 bird feeders the first weekend and 90 the



second weekend. Phyllis Knutson said they served 240 homemade ice cream cups. We don't know how many feet of rope we made, or how many ears of corn were shelled, but you helped make well over 100 Pioneer handkerchief dolls. It is fun and rewarding to watch so many people having a great time because you volunteered your time. The pictures show it all.

**You can SAVE these things for us: caps from gallon milk jugs, feathers 4 inches and up, buttons (large), light material for our handkerchief dolls, cotton balls**

Special thanks to Allan Schroden of North Country Trails. He led guided hikes all 4 days. Next year we'll try to have them leave later to see if we can get more hikers.



The apple press was new this year and was a big hit. It was interesting to see how they squeezed that juice out of the apples. The apple juice was so good. Thanks to Annette Thorson for letting us use her press and to Dave Gottenborg for donating the apples from his orchard over by Audubon. It will be back next year.



# THE RANGER REPORT



**PARK MANAGER**  
**Don Del Greco**

## HEADLINE STORIES 2016

As we approach the beauty and wonder of the 2017 winter season at Maplewood we take a quick look back at some “headline story highlights” of 2016.

**-Maplewood sets new Attendance Record in 2016:** Over 143,000 visitors enjoyed the wonder of Maplewood in 2016. The previous record was in 2012 when 142,000 guests visited Maplewood State Park. A notable story for the 2016 is the consistent “picture-perfect” weather conditions, especially on weekends, and the long extended fall color season that helped increase park visitation across the Minnesota State Park System. 2016 Horse rider attendance also set a new record with well over 8,000 total riders at Maplewood.

**-2016 winter:** Lack of snow and moderately cold weather set the stage for winter anglers, extended hiking opportunities and great winter camping cabin use at Maplewood.

**- Maplewood Candlelight Ski Event:** Timely snowfall provided “just enough” snow for an excellent and well-attended Friends of Maplewood event.

**-New “You – are – Here” Trail Map Signs:** This project involved the installation of 63 newly designed “You-are-Here” Trail Signs at various locations throughout Maplewood’s trail system. Park staff and the Conservation Corps of MN (CCM) also placed the signs at numerous new locations to help park trail users orient themselves to the varied trails of Maplewood.

**-Overhead Electric Power Line Conversion to Underground:** Maplewood partnered with LREC (Lake Region Electric Company) to install and convert overhead electrical power lines to underground at Maplewood. This project provides improved long-term access/maintenance of electric power service to the park enhancing aesthetics of the park by removing power poles and power lines from view.

**-Maple syrup season** returns to Maplewood: Favorable weather sets stage for an excellent maple syrup season with expanded interpretive programs to Pelican Rapids, Frazee and Underwood Schools.

**- 125th Community Picnic Celebration** - July 17<sup>th</sup>- This event attracted guests from throughout the state for a good-old-fashioned picnic with various activities, crafts, yard games, MINNAQUA Fishing Program, and a prairie restoration presentation provided by a corps of Minnesota State Park Naturalists, Friends of Maplewood members and community leaders.

**-New for 2016- Minnesota State Park Customers:** In 2016 Minnesota State Parks took steps to modernize our services and better meet customer needs.

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

**-Maplewood announces new staff/changes:** Please welcome new employee team members:

Alex Abarca, Natural Resource Worker

Dalton Skonseng Natural Resources Worker

**-School Events:** Maplewood hosted numerous local schools’ “Year-End” and “Year-Beginning” Events. (Pelican Rapids, Perham, Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Underwood, Frazee/Vergas and others)

**-The Maplewood Sugar Shack Partnership Project** continues to move forward. Throughout 2015-16, DNR Parks and Trails staff, DNR architects/engineering staff and Friends of Maplewood Sugar Shack Committee members met several times and have worked closely together to further develop building and site plans for this project. Construction commenced in August with excellent progress being made. This unique partnership has been supported by many generous donations of time, talent and resources. We look forward 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.

**-Prairie restoration resource work continues with several prescribed burns** conducted in 2015-16. Favorable weather made for excellent prescribed burn conditions in late October, 2015 & May, 2016.

**-Construction and installation of a new Horse Campground Trail Informational Kiosk:** Conservation Corps of MN (CCM)- This project funded through the Minnesota State Horse Pass revenues.

**-MTRA (Minnesota Trail Horse Riders Association)** funds were used for 7 new MINNCORR picnic tables for Maplewood's horse camp. (This group annually funds horse camp and day-use area improvements)

**-"MN State Parks & National Parks on the Air" Short-Wave Radio Events:** Two local Amateur Radio Operations Units broadcasted from Maplewood in 2016. They joined with MN State Parks and the NPS to celebrate in April, our 125th anniversary and the National Park Service's 100th Anniversary with a transmissions/operations event adjacent to the North Country Trail in Maplewood State Park. Over 270 transmissions spanned the globe, broadcasting the celebration of the park's anniversary with confirmed contacts made to over 40 states (including Hawaii), Guam and Canada.

**-Hallaway Hill Vista Project:** Ongoing evaluation and multi-year planning is underway for selecting a new and more sustainable hiking trail route to the top of Hallaway Hill. The modified trail route will take advantage of existing slopes, elevations, and topography and ultimately provide a more sustainable and less erosion-prone route to access the spectacular views from Hallaway Hill.

### **Events 2016**

Ribbon-cutting Legacy Prairie Restoration Projects Celebration Event-September 26, 2015.

Friends of Maplewood Annual Candlelight/Moonlight Ski, February 20, 2016

Friends of Maplewood Annual Maple Syrup Demonstration Day – April 9, 2016

Horse Enduro Maplewood West Competitive Ride – June 4, 2016

National Trails Day Hike– June 6, 2016

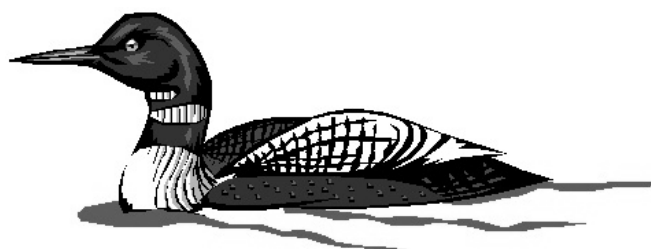
5th Annual Running Wild-Maplewood State Park 7K Trail Run – June 11, 2016

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 2016 Plein Air Art Event – September 19<sup>th</sup>

Drawing Class Series – Artist/Professor Lila Hauge-Stoffel

Leaf Days Sept 24-25 and October 1-2

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.



# NOTES

## 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

Sharon Teschendorf	Bonnie & John Nordstrom
Ashley Mergens Perrine	Denise & Brian Laymon
Pearl Wagstrom	Phyllis & Cliff Knutson

## 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 \$175.00 since our last newsletter from:

Carol Emery  
Cliff Knutson  
Carol Malmberg  
John Nordstrom

## DONATIONS

Underwood Lions Club  
Vergas Lions Club  
Esther & Ardean Sleen  
Carol & Sanford Emery  
JoAnn & Maynard Laymon  
Lauren Hendrickson  
Lyle Hendrickson

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have 45 Lifetime members.

Announcing our newest  
Junelle & Steven Christianson  
Mollie & Don Deckman  
Sharon & Ed Fjestad  
Pam Hovland & Steve Lawrence  
Pat & Churck Krekelberg  
Donna & Lloyd Nelson

## TREASURER'S REPORT

\$42,435.88 in our checking account  
\$1,137.03 Parks & Trails account

## RUNNING WILD

### TRAIL RUN

6th Annual



**Where:** Maplewood State Park

**When:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 9:00

**Why:** Benefiting Health Resources Center  
of Fergus Falls

3 Events to choose from:

- Running WILD 7K Trail Run
- 1 mile trail run/hike
- 200 yard kids run WILD

Information: [www.runningwildtrailrun.com](http://www.runningwildtrailrun.com)  
or find us on facebook



# FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD COMMITTEES

## Candlelight Ski

Ruth Holt  
Penny Brynildson  
Terry Heller  
Scott & Stephanie Stenshoel

## Music at Maplewood

John Nordstrom

## Display Board

Jim & Fran Bassett

## Press releases

John Nordstrom

## Leaf Days

Ruth Holmgren  
Ruth Holt  
Deb Bruns  
Bob Kreiser  
Van Holmgren  
John Nordstrom

## Maple Syrup Day

Bob Hanson  
Phyllis Knutson  
Cliff Knutson

## History Committee

Sanford & Carol Emery  
Ruth Holt  
Phyllis & Cliff Knutson

## Annual Meeting Food

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Picnic Shelter Weeding

Jim & Fran Bassett  
Stephanie & Scott Stenshoal  
Brian Laymon  
Wayne Runningen

## Drawing Maplewood

Lila Hauge-Stoffel

**We are always looking for volunteers to serve on any of our committees.**

**If you see an area that you would be willing to help with,**

**please call 218-334-6567 or email [nordlake7@hotmail.com](mailto:nordlake7@hotmail.com). Thanks**

### **PICNIC SHELTER WEEDING**

Jim and Fran Bassett spend some time last fall clearing out most of the weeds around the picnic shelter. Come spring the committee plans to meet and discuss what new plants they might use to fill in the areas that are cleaned out. It will continue to be an ongoing process so if you have an interest in helping please contact us.

218-334-6567 [nordlake7@hotmail.com](mailto:nordlake7@hotmail.com)

### **MUSIC AT MAPLEWOOD**

Last summer we had one evening of music at the Josh Hanson Picnic Shelter. It was a fun evening. This next summer we hope to expand that to at least one evening each month. We know Lee Brenna and Casey Perrin plan to return for one of those evenings. Jeff Johnson has indicated he would like to come, sing, play his guitar and also share some history of Maplewood State Park. We are looking for others. If you have an idea just contact:

218-334-6567 or [nordlake7@hotmail.com](mailto:nordlake7@hotmail.com).

## **MAPLE SYRUP CURRICULUM**

A group is working on a plan to use when school children visit Maplewood to learn about maple syrup. Our first meeting was cancelled due to snow so we have no information to report. However we will be looking for some items.

- 1- wooden pails, yoke for carrying pails, tin pails, old maple syrup equipment
- 2- Volunteers who would be willing to run a station or help run a station when school groups visit.

Contact John Nordstrom at 218-334-6567 or [nordlake7@hotmail.com](mailto:nordlake7@hotmail.com)



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

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

---

## CANDLELIGHT SKI

SATURDAY, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-8:30



Plan now to attend the Candlelight Ski at Maplewood State Park. The 1 mile ski trail will be lighted with 150 candles. Come and enjoy the evening. If you don't ski, stand around the campfire, chat with friends, and enjoy hot chili, bars, and hot drinks. Maplewood State Park has 12 sets of snowshoes that you could try out.

We will have the chili on and ready to serve by 5:00. So come early to Maplewood State Park and ski some of the 8 miles of trails that afternoon. After an hour or so of skiing, come and join the Friends at the Trail Center for supper before going out on the candle lighted trail.



Remember, if you come to go skiing, you do need a Ski Pass. \$6.00 daily ski passes are available at the Park and a 1 year ski pass (\$20) can be purchased at most sport stores [Maplewood can sell them also]. Of course Minnesota Park Stickers are required. Questions can be answered at Maplewood State Park, 218-863-8383. If snow is questionable, call before you come.