

The Maple Leaf

Fall 2019

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. 5—Annual Meeting
Sept. 28-29— Leaf Days
Oct. 5-6 — Leaf Days
Feb. 22 – Candlelight Ski
April ? – Maple Syrup Day

Advisory Committee

Denise Laymon, **chairperson**
Richard Smestad, **chairperson elect**
Alma Ronningen, **secretary**
Stu Peterson, **treasurer**
Kay & Denny Albright, **membership**
Penny Brynildson
Don & Bonnie Del Greco
Carol & Sanford Emery
Judith Engebretson
Jeff Fjestad
Bob & Kathy Hanson
Terry Heller
Ruth & Van Holmgren
Ruth Holt
Diane & Dave Knopf
Phyllis & Cliff Knutson
Bob & Karen Kreiser
Brian Laymon
Bonnie & John Nordstrom
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 2019

Come and celebrate the color of the leaves at Maplewood State Park. It's the annual gathering at Maplewood and it gives you the chance to take a hike on a beautiful fall day. Try out the new Hallaway Hill trail to see great new views. Don't worry the trail is not steep anymore and there are some wonderful new benches along the trail for you to rest and look out at this wonderful park. Of course we'll have our activities going on to keep you busy if you want. Wagon rides will again be available if you want to leave the driving to us. We'll have food and maple syrup for sale. It is our annual fundraiser and all the money goes right back into supporting Maplewood State Park. See you at the celebration.

September 28-29 October 5-6

Thought of volunteering during Leaf Days. We need lots of help with many activities. It is a fun time and you can do a job you feel comfortable with doing.

Call or email John Nordstrom to volunteer

218-841-7673 nordlake7@hotmail.com

Friends of Maplewood WEBSITE
friendsofmaplewood.org



WILD EDIBLE FORAY

It was a great day and about 30 people showed up at the Trail Center at Maplewood State Park. Greg Stetz begin by talking about all kinds of edibles in the woods. He explained that there are about 5000 different types of mushrooms and he knows about 9 of them that can be eaten (there are more eatable ones but "if in doubt, go without"). After his talk everyone got into their cars and followed him down the road. At each stop Greg explained what they were looking for and what was edible. The final stop was the mushroom place. Everyone walked around and picked some mushrooms and then they returned to the Trail Center and Greg cooked up scrambled eggs with mushrooms for everyone. It was a delicious end to a perfect class.

Thanks Greg.



Fly Fishing and Casting

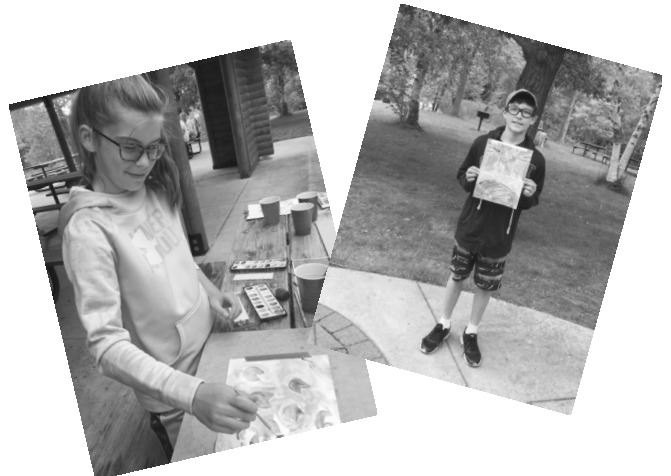


Friends of Maplewood member, Scott Stenshoel, offered a class on fly fishing. There were 7 participants who signed up for the class. Scott showed the class how to cast with a fly rod. They spend time practicing on land. He also gave them instruction on how to tie their own flies. At the end they all geared up with a fly rod and tried their luck off the shores of South Lida. It was a fun time and they even caught some fish. Thanks Scott.



WATERCOLOR PICTURES

50 people came to Maplewood to learn and practice watercolor painting. It was a good day. Thank you Heidi Smith.



MEDITATION at Maplewood

Sue Nyhus continued her Meditaion classes at Maplewood this summer. She held a class each month. Thank you Sue for providing the opportunity for people to come to Maplewood, relax, and have a quiet mind listening to nature.

Music at Maplewood

Three wonderful music events this summer. In June Rhoda Anderson Habedank shared her wonderful songs. July found Dennis Craswell singing some old time rock and roll. Was even a little dancing under the picnic shelter. Casey Perrin and Lee Brenna shared an evening of Gospel music in August.



PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

On a Sunday afternoon 6-7 members of the Detroit Lakes Photography Group came to Maplewood to teach people about taking pictures in nature. It was an informative sharing session to begin and then it was out to take pictures. They worked with people using their cameras or their phones. A picture perfect afternoon.



KEVIN RETIRES

Long time Building and Ground Worker, Kevin Kvenvolden retired on August 27, 2019. If you have visited Maplewood State Park within the last 30 years, it is likely you have bumped into him. Whether on foot patrol in the campgrounds doing night security duties, on a tractor mowing the trails, or maintaining the picnic grounds of the park, Kevin probably greeted you with a smile or wave.



I asked Kevin what is one of the most memorable things you remember during your 30 year career, he quickly responded "while walking the campgrounds and seeing mom, dad, and kids roasting marshmallows and having fun", and he also stated "hearing giggling and laughter of families "going to bed noises."

I also asked Kevin what was the biggest change he has seen during the past 30 years. He explained the addition on electrical campsites in the mid 90's was a game changer ..."it increased our occupancy and we started to fill up on all weekends not just holiday weekends." Something that still holds true today.

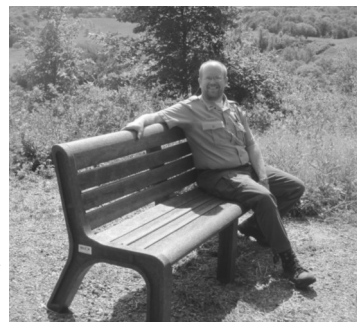
Kevin's retirement plans include "to have fun and continue to develop new experiences." The next time you see Kevin he maybe a park visitor enjoying one of the park's lakes or just enjoying the beauty of Maplewood State Park, the park that he cared for the past 30 years. By Jeff Fjestad

RECYCLE BINS REVITALIZED

The Recycle Bins built by Eagle Scout Travis Bartels were beginning to show signs of wear and they needed a new coat of stain. So Friend of Maplewood member Denny Albright came to the rescue. All four recycling bins were fixed up and stained. He spent a total of 16 hours working on the bins. Friends of Maplewood spend \$350 in materials. Thank you Denny!!

BENCHES

The Friends of Maplewood used memorial money to purchase 3 benches that are placed on Hallaway Hill. They are given in memory of:



Merilyn Fischer—She was a active member and past President of the Friends group. She passed away in 2012.

Brad Swenson— Avid photographer of wildlife and scenery at Maplewood State Park. He passed away in 2017.

Allie Fjestad— Daughter of Jeff and Tracey Fjestad and sister of Harper Fjestad. She passed away in January of 2019.

A plaque will be established showing the benches were given in memory of Merilyn, Brad, and Allie.

Allie Fjestad Maple Tree



Up by the sugar shack is a special maple tree. It was planted this summer and some day this tree will be giving maple sap. It was given in memory of Allie Fjestad by Jeff, Tracey, and Harper Fjestad.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE for 2020

Friends of Maplewood membership drive for 2020 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.

We raised our dues this year. When the Friends of Maplewood was organized in 2000, our dues were set at \$5, \$10, and \$25. Now, 20 years later, the Friends of Maplewood decided to raise them to \$10, \$15, \$30. The money you pay in dues each year is what allows the Friends of Maplewood to provide the Candlelight Ski, Maple Syrup Demonstration Day, Maple Syrup School visits, and Leaf Days. In this past year we have donated \$15,000 to Maplewood to redo the Hallaway Hill Trail. We also gave \$4682 to the North Country Trail to rework a section of the trail in Maplewood that was too steep. And finally we bought 3 benches for the Hallaway Hill Trail for \$1700.

Each year we get about 300 paying members. Some of them, when they pay their dues, add some extra money as a donation. These donations are greatly appreciated and it is all used to support Maplewood State Park.

Another great year in 2019. We had a total of 288 paid memberships. 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.

We heard you could help us out during Leaf Days this year. Now it just needs to be confirmed. You can do that by calling John Nordstrom at 218-841-7673 or emailing him at nordlake7@hotmail.com. Thanks for being willing to help. It can be a lot of fun.

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

THE RANGER REPORT



HEADLINE STORIES SUMMER 2019

PARK MANAGER Don Del Greco

The long and lingering winter of 2019 has blended into a remarkably spectacular summer with thousands of park guests seeking out the wonders of Maplewood. Park attendance has surged with the warmth of summer. As we savor the lingering days of summer we eagerly await the upcoming joy and beauty of autumn celebrations in Maplewood.

NCT: The North Country Trail re-route trail project was completed this summer through an extended and treasured partnership between the NCT, Friends of Maplewood State Park, the Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa (CCM), and the MNDNR – Maplewood State Park.

CCM: Civilian Conservation Corps crews have been providing excellent trail brushing maintenance and horse campground tree trimming work at Maplewood. This timely work will benefit many horse riders, hikers and winter trail users as we prepare the beloved and busy autumn horse riding season.

Fladmark Land Acquisition: We are humbled and grateful for the tremendous team of colleagues who have worked together through the land acquisition process. We are also thankful to the Fladmark-Bowers family for their faithful stewardship of this land and for their gracious consideration to provide the opportunity for this land sale to the State of Minnesota. This magnificent 80 acre parcel will provide future generations of park visitor's opportunities to enjoy this treasured parcel.

Retirement: Please note that we are pleased to announce the retirement of long-time Building and Grounds Worker, Kevin Kvenvolden. Retirement Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019. Kevin Kvenvolden has served faithfully as a Building and Grounds Worker exclusively at Maplewood State Park for 30 years. His long -term commitment to the Minnesota State Parks and Trails mission and numerous contributions to resource conservation, outdoor recreation, sustainable use of natural resources and operational excellence has been his life's work. Kevin has also been nominated and selected as a 2019 MN DNR Commissioner's Seasonal Award recipient.

Hallaway Hill Trail Project: Thank you to the Friends of Maplewood for the funding support for 3 new Memorial Park benches. The benches have been placed strategically along the trail. Please note that the Hallaway Hill trail re-alignment project continues to "heal" extremely well with lush prairie vegetation growth throughout the construction site. The crushed granite trail surface material has shown remarkable overall stability.

Park Staff: Congratulations to Maplewood NR Worker Alex Abarca as he has accepted a promotion to Maplewood's newest Building and Grounds Worker. Please join us in welcoming recent Rothsay graduate, Thomas Webster as Maplewood's new NR Worker. Ron Peterson will also join us this fall as a new Building and Grounds Worker.

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 once again to enjoy the wonder of Maplewood.

CANDLELIGHT SKI 2019

The Candlelight Ski event continues to be a tremendous success. We have many return and new visitors every year. In 2019 we had over 600 people who came to ski, hike, or snowshoe. This quote from one of our visitors. "We attended and had a great time!!! THANKS TO EVERYONE who helps to make this event happen. My husband and I have made it an annual date night for the past 4 years or so!! We love it!"

It is called a Candlelight Ski, but on this evening we allow hikers and snowshoers to share the trail. We know it messes up the ski trail some, but for everyone to enjoy the evening, it becomes necessary to share.

We need to give a shout out to the local area DNR staff who came to help with snow removal from the parking lot and trail preparation. It was more snow than Don and Jeff could handle. Also thanks to Ruth Holt (food organization), Karen Kreiser (making the chili), and Steve Toso (candle lighting organization). Also to the Friends of Maplewood who show up to help with everything. We'll see you in 2020, first Saturday after President's Day.



RUNNING WILD TRAIL RUN – June 9, 2019

We had an amazing morning with 344 runners/hikers of all ages and 50 hard-working and energetic volunteers helping to make for another successful event. We are grateful for the support of Maplewood State Park and you, Friends of Maplewood State Park, for your generous gift of Maple Syrup for the top 6 finishers. The Maple Syrup is a favorite for the runners!



Top Overall Male in the 7K was Leo Smith of West Fargo, ND with a time of 27:15

Top Overall Female in the 7K was Jaci Wilson of Fergus Falls, MN with a time of 30:32

There are many runners that continue to return to Maplewood each year to participate in Running Wild Trail Run. We look forward to the ninth annual Running Wild Trail Run on **Saturday June 13, 2020.**

North Country Trail

Part of the North Country Trail that runs through Maplewood State Park on its way to the state of Washington was a very steep and difficult climb. It also would cause lots of erosion during heavy rains. So the North Country Trail local group wanted to redo this portion of the trail. The work to redo the trail was going to be difficult. So the Friends of Maplewood donated \$4682 to the NCT group to hire a younger CCMI crew. In 4 days the members of the crew had the trail rerouted and ready to be used. They also got good experience working on trails. Thanks to them and the Friends of Maplewood for the money donation.

MAPLE SYRUP DEMONSTRATION DAY

For the second year in a row I awoke and saw the temperature and misting rain and said why are we even going to Maplewood. But we had a good day on Saturday, April 6th. Weather ended up OK. Volunteers were super. There were 23 of us who spent about 145 volunteer hours teaching about Maple Syrup and serving all the visitors. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. 250 cars came into Maplewood during the 9:00 – 3:00 hours for an estimate of 500 to 600 people. Lots of families, young kids, and people having a great time. The sugar shack was full all day on Saturday while Bob and Lorin explained the evaporator and fed the fire. Don DelGreco, Jeff Fjestad and Wayne Runningen did a great job parking cars and keeping it organized.

Every visitor got a taste of ice cream topped with maple syrup along with a brunkaka cookie made with maple syrup. We sold out all our maple syrup and what we had also gotten from Jake's Syrup. All our food was gone. Our donation jar found about \$239.



Maple Syrup 2019

It was a great year for maple syrup at Maplewood State Park. The volunteers tapped 150 trees with 195 taps in 15 runs. The sap did flow this year. They collected 1600 gallons and boiled it down to 40 gallons of maple syrup. Our volunteers put in 120+ hours working. Special thanks to our leaders Bob Hanson and Lorin Abel. They do a great job. Maple syrup will be for sale at Leaf Days.

Maple Syrup School Visits

Seven different school groups came to Maplewood to learn about making maple syrup from the sap in maple trees. Schools were: Underwood 6th graders, DL Rossman 4th graders, St. Pauls Perham, St. Henrys Perham, New York Mills FACS class, Home School area group, Frazee/Vergas 4th grade. 18 different volunteers spent about 140 hours volunteering to lead one of the 5 stations for each visit. Each school came on different days. We sent them off with a little cup of ice cream topped with maple syrup. A fun time is had by the school groups. Some eat lunch at Maplewood and then take a hike up Hallaway Hill to complete their day. Thank you to all the volunteers.

Couple of replies from school groups:

“Thank you so much for the learning opportunity. I am so sad I missed it but heard great things from my sub and Brian. My students wrote reflections today and WOW they learned a ton. Thank you so much!!” (NYMills FACS teacher)

“We had a great time!! Thank you! Your syrup is amazing. My son is out right now tapping a tree in our woods.” (Home School parent)



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

Greg Johnson
Allie Fjestad

Anna Mae Ruud
Gordy Jensen
Eileen Osborne

Dean A. Johnson
LeRoy Annerud
Lisa Burger

GIVEN BY

John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Jeff & Tracy Fjestad
John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Alma Ronningen

Van & Ruth Holmgren
Stu & Corinne Peterson

Van & Ruth Holmgren
Gene & Noreen Smestad
John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Mary & Bob Bowers

Lyndon & Kimberly Johnson
Mary & Bob Bowers
John & Bonnie Nordstrom

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 \$584

Joyce Burnham	Donovan Folden
Marilyn Folden	Terry Heller
Brain Laymon	Bonnie Nordstrom

DONATIONS

Wendy & Gene Koski—Roaster



LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have 55 Lifetime members.
We are happy to announce our newest.

Georgia & Mel Duncan
Jan & David Rolfson
Stephanie & Scott Stenshoel

Follow us on FACEBOOK

“Friends of Maplewood State Park”.

We always post events and happenings at Maplewood State Park. When you share the Facebook entry it helps us spread the word about our events to many more people. Thanks.

THINGS WE NEED

Old barn / shed wood that we can cut up and use for the kids to make bird houses or bird feeders.

Milk caps

Large buttons

Feathers

Gallon Apple Cider jugs

TREASURER'S REPORT

34,125.62 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.



Friends of Maplewood
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Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
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ANNUAL MEETING

FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2019 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. It is also a time to share your thoughts and ideas for Maplewood. We will review 2019 with a power point presentation.

Desserts will be served. NO meal. 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 5^h, at 6:30. You can pay your 2020 dues at that time. Thanks for taking the time to help improve Maplewood State Park.

Friends of Maplewood
2020 Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Membership Type:

_____ New Member

_____ Renewal

Annual Membership Dues:

_____ Single \$10

_____ Couple \$15

_____ Family \$30

_____ Lifetime \$500

Additional Donation:

_____ in MEMORY OF _____

_____ in HONOR OF _____

*Make checks payable to: **Friends of Maplewood**

Send membership application to:

Friends of Maplewood
Box 259
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

