



The Maple Leaf

Winter/Spring 2020

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. 22 – Candlelight Ski
April 4 – Maple Syrup Day
Sept – Annual Meeting
Sept 26-27—Leaf Days
Oct 3-4 - Leaf Days

Advisory Committee

Denise Laymon, **chairperson**
Richard Smestad, **chairperson elect**
Alma Ronningen, **secretary**
Penny Brynildson, **treasurer**
Lynn Carlson, **membership**
Wendy Koski, **membership**
Kay & Denny Albright
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
John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Larry & Judy Olson
Stu Peterson
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.

FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD WEBSITE

Are you online? I know most of you go online. Have you ever checked out the Friends of Maplewood website? It is really well done. If a group or organization is going to have a website it is so important that it is kept up to date, and that takes a lot of time and work. Our Friends of Maplewood's website is kept up to date and we have Brenda and Aubrey Ebanks to thank for that. They volunteered and donate their time to take care of it. If the Friends of Maplewood has something to put on the website, we contact them and they get it done. Usually if we forget, Brenda will email to see if we want something done. Pictures, articles, this newsletter, and notification of events are all there for people to read. In September I asked Brenda how often our website is visited. As best she could figure out it comes to about an average of 500 visits a month. That's a lot of good free advertising.

More thanks are due the Ebanks as they take care of putting all our events on Facebook. People and organizations who view our Facebook post, and then click share, means it gets sent onward to all of their friends. Before Leaf Days, Brenda posted it on Facebook, and a few days later there had been 18,000 viewers with 946 marking it as being interested in going.

So a big thank you to Brenda and Aubrey Ebanks for their donation of taking care of the Friends of Maplewood's website and Facebook pages.



Friends of Maplewood WEBSITE

friendsofmaplewood.org

RUNNING WILD TRAIL RUN Website: www.runningwildtrailrun.com

This is the 9th annual run. It is one of Health Resources Center's largest fundraising events of the year! This fun, family-oriented event will take place on June 13 at 9:00am in Maplewood State Park. Registration begins at 7:00 am. The Running Wild course navigates through the beautiful, but challenging, terrain of northwest Minnesota. There are three race options: a 7K Trail Run, 1-Mile LIFE Hike, and the 200 yard Kid's Run WILD.

Proceeds from Running Wild Trail Run benefit Health Resources center.

Questions contact Race directors, Erin or Mary Ellen.

Email: runningwildtrailrun@gmail.com Phone: 218-736-6050

Summer Activities

Last summer we offered some great classes and events at Maplewood. Meditation at Maplewood, Wild Edible Foray, Fly Fishing & Casting, Watercolor Pictures, Photography Class, and Music at Maplewood. We always hope to add a couple more classes and repeat the ones from last summer. At this time we don't know about what will be offered. As summer gets closer we will email you the times and dates or you can check our website. Of course we'll have them announced in the local papers.

If you have an idea for a class, please contact John Nordstrom at 218-841-7673 or

nordlake7@hotmail.com.

THINGS WE NEED

Remember to save:

Large buttons
Nice feathers
Maple leaves (not real ones)
Light cloth for dolls
Gallon apple cider jugs

Maplewood Triathlon Event

Boat, Bike, Hike

June 27, 2020

A new event for next summer will be a Triathlon Event (BOAT, BIKE, HIKE) that is being organized by Scott Stenshoel.

This will be run as a FUN event with no entry fee or prizes. (might have a drawing for prizes) Not all the decisions have been made so more information will be coming in May. The date is firm, but the time has not been set.

Short Route:

5 1/2 mile bike, 1 3/4 mile hike, 3/4 mile boat (kayak, canoe, paddle board)

Long Route:

5 1/2 mile bike, 3 mile hike, 1 3/4 mile boat (kayak, canoe, paddle board)

MAPLE SYRUP SEASON

It's only January and maple syrup season is off in the distance, but it is time to start thinking about it. Bob and Lorin will be making plans to start tapping trees the middle of March. If you have a desire to learn about setting up and tapping trees you can contact Bob to help and learn (Bob 701-412-7084). You are always welcome to come to the Sugar Shack when they are boiling and ask questions. Just call Maplewood to see if they are boiling that day. We hope we'll have as good a season as last year.

VERGAS MAPLE SYRUP FEST

Saturday April 4th

The day begins with a pancake breakfast from 8:00—noon at the Community Center. The 5K Maple Syrup Run starts at 9:00 (registration is at 8:00 at Billys) For more information you can check the web-site: www.cityofvergas.com

SCHOOL VISITATIONS MAPLE SYRUP

Our maple syrup education program brought 7 school groups to Maplewood last year to learn about making maple syrup. Each school group is divided up and they visit 5 different stations.

Maple Tree ID, Tapping the tree, Evaporation Process, Native American maple producing, and tasting maple syrup.

Working with the kids is fun and we're always looking for volunteers. No experience necessary. We hope to add a couple more school groups this year.

MAPLE SYRUP DEMONSTRATION DAY

Saturday, April 4th

10:00—3:00 Maplewood State Park

Come one, come all to Maplewood and experience maple syrup at its best. We'll show you all about making maple syrup, how to try it at home, treat you to some ice cream with maple syrup, and give you the opportunity, weather providing, to take a nice quiet hike in the woods. There will be horse drawn wagon rides. If you get hungry we'll have brats and hot dogs for sale. It's always a great time.



Our old maple syrup cooking arch has been rebuilt by Denny Albright and John Nordstrom. It is covered to keep out the rain and snow. Demonstration Day we'll be able to show you how it works. Thanks Denny and John

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the Friends of Maplewood was held in early September. **This year found our treasurer Stu Peterson retiring. Thank you Stu for your work as treasurer over these past years, keeping track of the dollars, and working at getting the Sugar Shack built. It is appreciated.** Penny Brynildson has volunteered to be the new treasurer.

Kay Albright, who has been taking care of memberships for at least 10 years also retired. Thank you Kay. You have consistently done a great job of getting people the thank you for joining the Friends of Maplewood. Two people stepped forward to take over the job. Lynn Carlson and Wendy Koski will be sharing those duties. One change they made is that if you have an email with the Friends of Maplewood, your Thank You will be emailed out. If no email, you will continue to receive a Thank You by mail.

It should also be noted that Scott Stenshoel has volunteered to be our Vice Chair. Richard Smestad is our Chairperson Elect which means we will be in good hands for the next 5 years.

The members gathered at the Annual Meeting watched a power point presentation of the past years activities and accomplishments. Don DelGreco shared that Maplewood receives an average of 148,000 visitors a year. He also mentioned 2 new partials of land that are in the works to be purchased. We watched and listened to a presentation on the progress of the Perham to Pelican Rapids Regional Trail which will pass through Maplewood. Chuck Carpenter from the DNR talked about the long term strategic plan. Next project in the future for Maplewood from the State will be a new shower building at the Grass Lake Campground.

For the past 2 or 3 years we have been having a discussion about whether to use something to block the wind and rain at the picnic shelter. Three different plans have been put forward and after a short discussion a written ballot vote was taken and the option of doing nothing was the decision.

Decision was also made to continue Music at Maplewood during the summer and the Friends of Maplewood Photo Contest. Thanks to all who took the time to attend our annual meeting. It was a good meeting.



PHOTO CONTEST 2019



Our first experience with a Friends of Maplewood Photo Contest was good. There were 9 people who submitted 32 pictures in 3 categories: Scenic Beauty, Wildlife / Plant Life, People enjoying recreation. We had a team of photo judges from photography clubs judge the pictures. They announced these winners: Scenic Beauty – 1st Deb Sjostrom, 2nd Josh Von Bank Wildlife/Plant Life – 1st Susan Anderson, 2nd Susan Anderson People Enjoying Recreation – 1st Brenda Ebanks, 2nd Cary Ann Krogsgaard. First place received \$25.00 and second place \$15.

We didn't print any pictures here because it would require color to do them justice. All 32 pictures can be found on our website, friendsofmaplewood.org. They were also posted on Facebook and displayed at our Leaf Days celebration.

Our new 2020 Photo Contest started on September 1, 2019 and will continue until August 31, 2020. It is open to anyone and we'd like to see you submit a few pictures. Rules and information sheets as well as Entry Forms can be found on our website. You can also pick one up at the Maplewood State Park Contact Station or at the Trail Center. Another excuse to take your phone or camera and go for a hike, snowshoe, or ski at Maplewood and find that perfect photo. Good Luck!!

Be watching next summer for another Nature Photography Class at Maplewood. We had one last summer put on by the Detroit Lakes Photography Club and we think they'll offer it again next summer. They will give you help with your camera or your phone, whichever way you take your pictures.

LEAF DAYS

I'd like to begin by complaining about the weather during Leaf Days, but today is going to be the warmest day, and it's only getting to 39 degrees, so I'm not going to do that. I'm just going to issue a blanket statement that I'm upset with the fall weather. Add the season of spring to that complaint. What is this article about again?

Oh yeah, Leaf Days. So we did ok on Leaf Days even with having a poor first Sunday and a cancelled second Saturday. The leaves were good and on those 2 good days, the crowds were wonderful. Sept. 28th found 850 cars and Oct 6th 719 cars. The park informed me that the next 3 days found over 400 cars visiting each day. When the weather is good, Maplewood attracts a crowd.

Our news releases through area newspapers, radio & TV, website, and Facebook spread the news well. The yearly volunteers did a great job of helping entertain the visitors to Maplewood. Again we were a little short of volunteers, but we made it. Think about sharing 4 hours with us next year on one of our days. It is a lot of fun and the people who visit really appreciate it.



When all was done we had a profit of \$5300 from sales of food, clothing, and maple syrup. Thanks to the Underwood Lions for the use of their wagon and to Molly Deckman who donated some photo cards for us to sell.

Shelling corn



Animal Pelt Identification



Apple Press

DO PEOPLE REALLY VISIT MAPLEWOOD

As Friends of Maplewood we know people visit Maplewood State Park. Our numbers at Candlelight Ski, Maple Syrup Demonstration Day, and Leaf Days are just great. But what about other times?

It was Saturday, October 19, MEA weekend. Nothing special going on at Maplewood, but Bonnie and I were taking care of our granddaughter's dog and because it was a beautiful day we decided to take him to the Park for a hike. The leaves were mostly gone but that was ok. We arrived and drove up to the Trail Center. The parking lot was full so I counted. 45 cars. That's correct. 45 cars. No family reunion or birthday party. Just a lot of people out hiking and enjoying the beautiful day. We hiked for an hour and it wasn't crowded at all, but lots of families having fun.

When I stopped to tell Don DelGreco how busy it was at the Trail Center, he told me his wife Bonnie had just been down to the Hallaway Hill trail and as she hiked up and down the trail she met 125 people on the trail. He also said 700 cars came to Maplewood that Saturday. Maplewood is a great asset to Minnesota and the towns around this Park. Good to know, so let's keep making it better.

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

James Doyle
Bev Koepcke
Dick Muehlhausen
Glenn Fladmark
Allie Fjestad
Allie Fjestad
Jerri Baker
Norma Otterson
Mildred Erickson
Westby Family
Jacob Lavoie
Jacob Lavoie
Gordy Jensen
Lula Brown
Phyllis Haugrud

GIVEN BY

John & Carol Koepcke
John & Carol Koepcke
Garnet Muehlhausen
Robert & Mary Bowers
Steve & Diane Millard
Glenys & Gerhard Ehlert
Ron Baker & Jane Roberts
Don & Diane Erickson
Don & Diane Erickson
Ann Westby
John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Van & Ruth Holmgren
Jude Jensen
Mary Carol Peterson
Lyle Haugrud

IN HONOR OF

Maplewood Park Staff

GIVEN BY

Bob & Cindy Klatt

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. The following sent Choice Dollars .

Kathryn Anderson

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$45,915 in our checking account

\$1747.03 in our Parks & Trail account

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have 62 Lifetime members.
We are happy to announce our newest.

Don & Bonnie DelGreco
Stanley Wieser
Paul & Judy Tabbut
Coldwell Banker Preferred Partners
Mary L. Brinkman
Gene & Wendy Koski
Mark & Judy Grefsrud

DONATIONS

Home Depot—Fergus Falls & Waite Park
(Woodworking kits Leaf Days)

Gottenborg Apples

Lyle Bring - new Apple Press basket

Sanford Emery—new Apple Press cover

Van Holmgren—new Lifetime Member board

MONEY DONATIONS

Ben Woessner
Anonymous
Tom Hintgen
Melvin Haynes
Cindy Trane
Vance & Katie Nichelson
Paul Shol
Dave & Joan Ellison
Don & Sue Kunelius
Dick & Pat DuBord
Doug & Sue Bruggeman
Rick & Mary Sytsma

LIFETIME MEMBER [A Story]

Who becomes a Lifetime Member of the Friends of Maplewood? What makes a person decide to become a Lifetime Member? Just so you know the Friends of Maplewood is thankful for all of our members. Most of our members join continuously year after year sending in their dues. Thank you all so much.

But one day in the mail I was opening more membership letters with people paying their dues and I came to one who was a first time joiner and she joined with a Lifetime Membership. And Mary is from Ames, Iowa. I was curious about what connection she had to Maplewood so I gave her a call.

She told me it is a long story and she didn't lie. Her grandfather farmed in Iowa, but came to Minnesota once in a while. So one summer her dad spent the summer in Fergus Falls and worked as a soda jerk at a drug store. He enjoyed his summer in Otter Tail County. After some time living in California, he returned to operate the family farm in Iowa, but he told his family they would get one week up in Minnesota on a lake each year before school started. When he visited here he liked to fish and relax on a quiet lake. They visited different resorts, but did spend a few summers at the Shady Rest Resort on Beers Lake. It was very quiet and peaceful on that lake. In the early 60's, Mary was in 8th grade, and she recalls one week when their cousins were visiting from California. They referred to the island on Beers Lake as Paradise Island. One day they made a time capsule out of a wooden silverware drawer, filled it with special items, took it to Paradise Island and buried it. She assumes it is probably rotted out by now.

Mary (whose maiden name is Kohler) eventually ended up with a cabin on Long Lake, north of Otter Tail, so she comes here quite often now. All visitors to her cabin come to Maplewood to hike Hallaway Hill. So September 29th found Mary and her sister at Leaf Days on the wagon ride asking Bob Hanson many questions. They just love Maplewood and later she picked up a newsletter and membership application and the rest is history. Thank you Mary for your Lifetime Membership and the fun story.

Shady Rest Resort

Did you know there was a resort on Beers Lake? I had never heard that and Mary said that they drove the minimum maintenance road looking for some remnants of a road down to the lake. Couldn't find any, but they knew it wasn't that far from Fladmark Lake. Next day they visited the museum in Fergus Falls, and looked for information about the Shady Rest Resort. They did find an obituary for Lloyd Cromwell that said he had operated resorts on Beers Lake and West Silent Lake. Seems when they closed the resort on Beers Lake they moved the cabins to West Silent and operated the Shady Rest Resort there. His wife, Elaine Cromwell, was a speech pathologist and maybe taught in Pelican Rapids. This was around the early 1960s. By 1968 the plot map shows that the property belonged to Maplewood State Park.

If you have any information or pictures of the Shady Rest Resort we would be interested in adding it to our history of Maplewood. Just contact John Nordstrom at 218-841-7673 or nordlake7@hotmail.com. Thanks.

2019 – Maplewood State Park: Celebrating the Seasons, Safety Success, & Partnerships.

Celebrating Seasons: Maplewood State Park's remarkable natural beauty and abundant natural resources attract on average, 144,000 guests each year. Maplewood's ever changing seasons welcomes many new and returning park guests seeking wonder-filled outdoor experiences. Summer guests come to enjoy the cool, clear lakes and to camp amongst the lush forests and colorful prairies during the sunny warmth of long summer days. Leaf-lookers flock to the park to experience the breathtaking color-filled days of autumn. Winter adventurers seek to ponder the winter wonderland solitude that draws hearty ski, snowshoe, snowmobile enthusiasts. Spring visitors arrive in anticipation of the promise of spring woodlands filled with wildflowers and the laughter of children experiencing the joy of maple sugaring. Each year we are privileged to be lavished in the gifts of Nature.

Celebrating Safety Success: Safety improvements in Minnesota State Parks and Trails

Just under a year ago, all of Minnesota's State Parks started a new (4DX) safety initiative to help promote an enhanced safety program for all park employees. Many good things have happened from implementing this program and we are pleased to share that the Maplewood State Park staff teamed together to successfully reduce our incidents and provide for a safer and healthier for all Parks and Trails staff. The new program focuses on focused, intentional **daily communication** around safety, **shared learning** of best practices with a team approach and best of all, a **reduction in injuries** with a **healthier Parks and Trails staff!** Please ask one of Maplewood's employees to talk with you about our safety program.

Celebrating Partnerships and Volunteers:

-**Friends of Maplewood State Park:** We especially celebrate and are grateful for the incredible volunteer support that Maplewood State Park receives each year from the many Friends of Maplewood volunteers that give of their precious time, creative talents and gifts to the many seasonal events provided for through this treasured partnership. (Candlelight Ski Event, Leaf Days and Maple Syrup Programs)

Running Wild Event: -2019 marked a celebration of 9 years of partnering with the volunteers of the Health Resources Center of Fergus Falls to provide for the family-friendly, fun-filled, &K Running Wild Event at Maplewood.

-**Maplewood West-Competitive Horse Endurance Ride:** This unique event has been off and running for many years of excellent "partnering" with horse ride coordinators and participants.

-**North Country Trail Organization:** The NCT re-route trail project was completed in June of 2020 through an extended partnership between the NCT, Friends of Maplewood, and the CCM.

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCM): Each year seasonal crews of young adults from around the country continue to provide for timely & excellent horse & hiking trail maintenance & rehabilitation project work. This work benefits many horse riders, hikers & winter trail users.

Hallaway Hill Trail Visitor Comment/quote:

Handwritten note from an elderly couple regarding their recent hike on the new Hallaway Hill Trail: *"The Trail is wonderful, thanks for making it possible for 79 yr. old Hazel and 82 yr. old George to climb it."* (August 15, 2019)

Hallaway Hill Trail Project Update: Thank you to the Friends of Maplewood for the timely funding support for trail construction and for 3 new Memorial Park benches, recently placed along the trail route.

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 on August 27, 2019 of long-time Building and Grounds Worker, Kevin Kvenvolden. Kevin has served exclusively and faithfully for 30 years at Maplewood State Park.

Horse Camp Improvements: The Horse Campground entrance road Culvert was replaced this year.

Park Staff: Congratulations to former 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 also joined us this year 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.
Don Del Greco, Park Manager Maplewood State Park

2019 Deer Hunting at Maplewood State Park

Nearly 100 deer hunters participated in the 2019 special deer hunt at Maplewood. The 4-day deer hunt (November 9th -12th) was a good, safe, and wonderful experience for hunters, young and old alike. The 2019 season greeted hunters with nice weather and a little snow on Sunday of the hunt. 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 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 380 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.)

For the 2019 season, each hunter had the opportunity to purchase a bonus tag, along with their regular deer license, to use during the park hunt. The bonus tag enabled each hunter to harvest an additional antlerless deer. A total of 61 deer were harvested during the 2019 Special Deer Hunt.
Jeff Fjestad

Cliff Knutson – Deer Hunter

Cliff Knutson is a valued member of the Friends of Maplewood Advisory Board and a resident of Fergus Falls. When members of a hunting party headed by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz came to the Fergus Falls area for opening of deer hunting, Cliff stepped forward to help as a hunter host for Tom Claycomb and Bob Johnson. With Knutson's help, both men tagged deer. Claycomb had a trophy buck within an hour. Knutson took Johnson up to Maplewood later on Saturday where he also shot a buck.

Knutson, who was lauded by Walz Friday morning at the 17th annual Minnesota Governor's Deer Hunting Opener, has hunted deer every season over the last 75 years. Guiding for two members of the governor's party was "very rewarding" according to Knutson. His own hunting excursion came after the opening weekend. He hunted on property he has adjacent to Maplewood State Park and he did get his deer. Congratulations Cliff as you got your deer during the same week you turned 85.

Information from Fergus Falls Journal and Cliff Knutson

MEMBERSHIP

We are into our membership drive for 2020. So far 274 people have joined or renewed their memberships. If you have forgotten to renew there is a membership sheet in your newsletter. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to:

Friends of Maplewood, PO Box 259, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 Thank you.

Single \$10 Couple \$15 Family \$30 Lifetime \$500



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 22nd
6:00-8:30



The last 2 years of our **Candlelight Ski** have been awesome. Come and enjoy the evening with us again in 2020. The 1 mile ski trail will be lighted with 150 candles. This evening, walkers, snowshoers, and skiers share the trail. So if you don't ski, you can walk, snowshoe or stand around the campfire, chat with friends, and enjoy hot chili, smores, bars, and hot drinks. Maplewood State Park has 12 sets of snowshoes that you can try out. No skis are available.

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 if 16 or older. \$10.00 daily ski passes are available at the Park and a 1 year ski pass (\$25) can be purchased at most sport stores [Maplewood can sell them also]. Of course Minnesota Park Stickers are required on all vehicles. Questions can be answered at Maplewood State Park, 218-863-8383. If snow is questionable, call before you come or check our website.