



The Maple Leaf

Winter/Spring 2021

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

Upcoming Events:

At this time no events are scheduled because of Covid 19. When we find out differently, we'll let you know.

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.

Covid 19 VS Friends of Maplewood

The big game started last March. OK I can't call it a game as it is far too serious and dangerous. But if someone was keeping score, Covid 19 has scored all the points. Friends of Maplewood has done nothing at Maplewood State Park since March. Things look bleak. It is depressing.

BUT!!! The Friends didn't score any points, but we have won the battle. How is that possible you ask? It is because of **YOU**. Yes! You members have renewed your memberships, and some new people have joined. We have more Lifetime Members. Many of you have given the Friends of Maplewood monetary donations and used us as a place to give memorials for those who have died, both in the past and the present.

It is so wonderful to open up our mail and see that despite the fact we can't do anything at Maplewood State Park, you have faith in the group that they will be back with new and old events at the Park. Your monetary donations in dues, gifts, and memorials will allow us to see what new things we can accomplish. You continue to support Maplewood State Park.

Thank You



Friends of Maplewood WEBSITE

friendsofmaplewood.org

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

Dale Pierce
Josh Hanson
Chuck Egge
Alvie & Jean Lund
Dr. T.E. & Ruth Smith
Merilyn Fischer
Jane Tolbert
Josh Hanson
Connie Michealson
Jerrilyn Baker
Evar & Laura Fladmark
Glenn Fladmark
John Koepcke
John Koepcke
Deloris Tollefson Gode
Al Schierman
Dr. Rich Baker
Steve & Diane Christianson
Dorothy Ross
Dale Pierce
John Koepcke
Phyllis Haugrud
Mildred Martinson
Alex Stoffel
Gordy Jensen
Herb & Eileen Kohler
Cleo King
Leslie & Mary Pierce
Jim Brinkman
Jerri Baker

GIVEN BY

John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Galen & Sharon Vaa
Dotty Egge
Denise Lund-Smith
Denise Lund-Smith
Rod Mittelsteadt
Robert J. Tolbert
Vaun & Pam Bruhn
Paul & Connie Miller
Ron & Jane Baker
Robert & Mary Bowers
Robert & Mary Bowers
Wayne & Melanie Runningen
John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Dale & Elizabeth Michealson
Helen Miller
Nancy & Larry Eisinger
Carolyn J. Anderson
Nancy & Duane Palubicki
John McMillen
Van & Ruth Holmgren
Lyle M. Haugrud
Lyndon & Kimberly Johnson
Virginia Ostlund
Judith Jensen
Sue Kohler
Marlo & Sheri Meester
Marlo & Sheri Meester
Mary Brinkman
Renee & Tim Erickson

IN HONOR OF

Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Dale Michealson
All the GREAT Volunteers
Dale Pierce

GIVEN BY

Jerry & Deb Haugen
Ruth & Ben Johnson
Gene & Noreen Smestad
Marlo & Sheri Meester

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have 71 Lifetime members.
We are happy to announce our newest.

Brian & Connie Evenson
Bill & Monica Stutsman
Cary & DeeDee Stephenson
Tiffany & Keith Knoke
Tyler & Rachael Spriggs
Nicholas Spriggs

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$50,722 in our checking account
\$7927.03 in our Parks & Trail account

MONEY DONATIONS

Dick & Pat DuBord
Lisa Ouren
Stu & Corinne Peterson
Frank & Patti Kratky
Tom & Sharon Hintgen
Kim Haugrud
Doug & Sue Bruggeman
Don & Sue Kunelius
Katie & Vance Nichelson
John & Carol Koepcki
Jerry & Kathy Stigman
Dan & Mary Storrusten
Garnet Muehlhausen
Allen & Linda Westby
Pamela Hovland
Jon & Bonnie McGregor

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Cliff & Phyllis Knutson



Cliff & Phyllis are two very seasoned volunteers. The Friends of Maplewood isn't the first stop on their volunteering trail, but it has been a good stop for the Friends of Maplewood.

Cliff & Phyllis live on Sophus Anderson Road outside of Fergus Falls on a farm. This farm has many buildings and they are filled with many wonderful antiques and old farm equipment. A tour is a great and interesting historical experience. These two don't just sit around. They always have a project going, or 3 or 4. Sometimes Cliff spends his time writing, and oh yeah, Phyllis gets to spend her time reading, correcting, and typing. They have amassed a great deal of knowledge over the years and are always willing to share it.

As members of the Friends of Maplewood Advisory Board they are always present at the meetings and come with ideas and suggestions. They don't just say, "Why don't we do this." No, they will research it, know prices, and understand the whys and hows of their ideas.

And they aren't afraid to volunteer to help. Cliff and Phyllis love to stand around at our events and talk to people. They are the best ambassadors we have for the Friends of Maplewood. Always talking about Maplewood and the great park that it has become, they talk to visitors to make their time at Maplewood fun. Cliff always has a story to tell. Of course they also might try to get you to join the Friends of Maplewood.



But for me, their best qualities are the activities they have started for the Friends of Maplewood. Making home made ice cream, making rope, shelling corn, grinding corn, and making butter make our Leaf Days celebration fun and interesting for all the visitors. They have the old equipment to make these all happen and as we continue these activities, have donated some to our Friends group. I know there might be a couple new ones in the years to come.



We just want to give a HIP, HIP, HOORAY to two very special volunteers. Thank you Cliff and Phyllis for the time and energy you give to the Friends of Maplewood.

WHAT NEXT?

As we move into February we know that our Candlelight Ski has been cancelled. Maple Syrup education is probably not going to happen this year. The MN DNR Parks and Trails makes those decisions.

When we know if things are going to happen and we have scheduled events, we'll put it on our website, Facebook, email, local newspapers, and we'll mail out a notice to all our members. We'll do our best to keep everyone informed!

We look forward to this summer and the possibility that we can start to have events. Our plan is to try bring back all the old events and create a few new ones. Here is a list of possibilities.

Music at Maplewood (one a month)

Triathlon (boat, bike, hike)

Watercolor Painting

Wild Edible Foray

Meditation

Raptor program

Archery

Leaf Days

Photography class

Maple Syrup demonstration

Fly Fishing & Casting

Birding

Bird House building

Running Wild Trail Run

MEMBERSHIP

Our spreadsheet carries the names of 457 past & present members. **In 2021 we have 71 Lifetime Members and 173 members who have renewed their membership for 2021.** That means that there are 213 past members who could renew their membership.

If you have not paid your 2021 Membership Dues, you will find a renewal sheet in your newsletter. If you would consider continuing your membership it would be appreciated. Please take the time to send in your registration form to our mail box.

Also, if you know of someone who isn't a member and think that they would be good supporters of Maplewood State Park, talk to them and encourage them to join the Friends of Maplewood State Park. **They can just write their information, Name, Address, phone number, email address and send it to PO Box 259, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572**

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

ANNUAL DEER HUNT



The annual deer hunt at Maplewood State Park saw 100 hunters hunt in the park. This year a total of 64 deer were harvested. This compared with 61 deer harvested in 2019.

The purpose of the hunt in Maplewood is to protect native plant diversity and restoration efforts from over-browsing by deer.

If you would like to hunt in Maplewood next year you need to apply through the DNR Electronic Licensing System in early September. About 1/4th of the applicants receive a permit for Maplewood. Every year you apply you get preference points. The more preference points a hunter has the better chance at getting drawn. It is good to have 3 or 4 preference points.



Of course **Leaf Days 2020** didn't happen, but somebody forgot to tell the leaves. They were the best colors we have had for many years. And of course with all the extra time due to Covid, and the fact it was good to be outside, there were many leaf lookers, hikers, and people just enjoying the outdoors. Maplewood State Park was busy during 2020. Here are the numbers for the cars that came to Maplewood for the 2 weeks we usually have Leaf Days.

Sept 24—30

458- 823- 1388- 915- 211- 500- 375

Oct. 1—7

275- 380- 793- 1097- 295- 229- 283

As you can see there were good numbers all the time. And the weather on the weekends was not super. Before Sept. 14 and after Oct. 7 Maplewood also had good numbers of visitors.

For the record:	Total visitation 2019	138,247
	Total visitation 2020	154,513

That's an increase of about 16,000 visitations in 2020 and Maplewood operated with a unusual small staff due to a hiring freeze. They did a good job of answering questions and dealing with all the problems that come with increased visitation.. Thanks to the staff for going the extra mile.

Maplewood is in the process of hiring the Assistant Manager position with interviews scheduled in February.

New Campground
Sanitation/Shower Building to Maplewood State Park.
Construction 2021-2022
More Information this spring.

FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD LIFETIME MEMBERS

I remember when we started with Lifetime members and we decided to make a plaque so we could honor them. We hung the plaque in the Trail Center at Maplewood State Park. Now, a few more plaques later, we have 71 Lifetime Members from many different communities and even a few different states. It is good to know that people love and support Maplewood State Park.

Many of our Lifetime Members continue their support with donations and memorials. Thank You for your support and thank you to **all our members** who yearly support the Friends of Maplewood with their memberships, donations, memorials, and also volunteering.

Cyndy & Phil Stotesbery 2001 Pelican Rapids
Betty & Jon Staebler 2005 Perham
Dr. David & Mimsi Weckwerth 2005 Pelican Rapids
People for Pelican 2006 Pelican Rapids
Don Perrin 2007 Pelican Rapids
Wells Fargo Bank 2007 Pelican Rapids
Dr. Richard C. & Alberta Baker 2007 Fergus Falls
Kathy & Bob Hanson 2008 Pelican Rapids
Diane & David Knopf 2008 Detroit Lakes
Kay & Dennis Albright 2008 Pelican Rapids
Dr. Joe & Becky Greenagel 2008 Fergus Falls
Judy & Bob Babler 2009 Pelican Rapids
Phyllis & Gary Jorgensen 2010 Cold Spring, MN
Fergus Falls Area Garden Club 2010
Patty & Roland Jordahl 2010 Pelican Rapids
Johanna & Jim Christianson 2010 Pelican Rapids
Roger & Terry Morical 2011 Battle Lake
Nancy & Larry Eisinger 2011 Walker, MN
Marion & Gene Stoll 2011 Dent
Red Horse Riders Saddle Club 2011
Linda Wolfe 2012 Wenatchee, WA
Susan Lenthe 2012 Moorhead
Polly & Tom Musacchia 2012 Fargo, ND
Ellen & Jim Knudsen 2013 Fergus Falls
Patricia & John Lindholm 2013 Fergus Falls
Brittany & Mark Dokken 2013 Pelican Rapids
Sam & Marti Jones 2013 Dent
Truman Strand 2013 Pelican Rapids
Joyce & Ronald Flaig 2014, Sept. Fargo
Alma & Marvin Ronningen 2014 Dent
Bonnie & John Nordstrom 2014 Frazee
Ruth & Van Holmgren 2014 Pelican Rapids
Annette (Knudsen) & Steve Sprague 2014 Fargo
Kathryn (Ronningen) & Bruce Anderson 2015 Elk River
JoAnn & Brent E. Frazier 2015 Pelican Rapids
Underwood Lions Club 2015

Hebe & Jim Shipp 2015 Pelican Rapids
Dave McRoberts 2016 Battle Lake
Lisa & Mark Spriggs 2016 Moorhead
Pamela Hovland & Steve Lawrence 2016 Wilton, CT
Sharon & Ed Fjestad 2017 Pelican Rapids
Mollie & Don Deckman 2017 Pelican Rapids
Donna & Lloyd Nelson 2017 Pelican Rapids
Pat & Chuck Krekelberg 2017 Pelican Rapids
Junelle & Steve Christianson 2017 Dent
Paulette & Chester Nettetstad 2017 Pelican Rapids
Perham Rotary Club 2017 Perham
Jeanne & Jim Hovland 2018 Pelican Rapids
Kathryn Evenson & Bernd Nordmann 2018 Pelican Rapids
Lynn & Miriam Lundin 2018 Pelican Rapids
Richard & Jennifer Smestad 2018 Fergus Falls
Vergas Lions Club 2018 Vergas
Scott & Stephanie Stenshoel 2019 West Fargo
Georgia & Mel Duncan 2019 St. Paul
Jan & David Rolfson 2019 Watford City, ND
Don & Bonnie DelGreco 2019 Pelican Rapids
Stanley Wieser 2019 Wheaton
Paul & Judy Tabbut 2019 Pelican Rapids
Coldwell Banker Preferred Partners 2019 Pelican Rapids
Mary L. Brinkman 2019 Ames, IA
Gene & Wendy Koski 2019 Pelican Rapids
Mark & Judy Grefsrud 2019 Pelican Rapids
Jeff & Dawn Peter 2020 Pelican Rapids
Pat & Norma Martin 2020 Pelican Rapids
Suzanne Smemo 2020 Fergus Falls
Brian & Connie Evenson 2020 Pelican Rapids
Bill & Monica Stutsman 2020 Melbourne, FL
Cary & DeeDee Stephenson 2020 Pelican Rapids
Tyler & Rachael Spriggs 2021 Sabin
Nicholas Spriggs 2021 Moorhead
Tiffany & Keith Knoke 2021 West Fargo, ND



THE RANGER REPORT

PARK MANAGER Don Del Greco

Celebrating the Seasons, High Attendance & Refreshment for Park Guests in the year of the Pandemic:

This year of 2020, during the challenging times of a global pandemic, Maplewood has welcomed thousands of new and returning guests seeking that refreshment and 'fresh air' of nature. Visitation has surged as young and old, families and adventurers; the tired and weary have discovered anew the healing balm of experiencing the great outdoors. We are thankful to report that the 2020 Maplewood total visitation numbers of 154,513 is second only to the 2017 record of 154,587 total visits. This is quite remarkable considering about ½ of our campground facilities remained closed in 2020 and many of our special events were cancelled due to the pandemic. 2020 - 154,513, 2019 – 138,247, 2018 - 140,071 2017 – 154,597.

While so many things have changed during the pandemic, postponed events, camping was downsized to allow staff to clean and sanitize buildings for the safety and well-being of park users, keeping everyone safe was a priority and continues. Park office was closed and park users have readily adapted to using self-registration stations. Events were canceled, we especially missed maple syruping and the legendary Leaf Days celebration hosted by the Friends group. We look forward to those events and gatherings again as the times become safer for us to continue meeting in closer proximities.

Nonetheless, Park lovers came and keep coming. Many for the first time, they come for the beauty of seeing the ever changing seasons, to enjoy the cool, clear lakes and to camp in the lush forests and colorful prairies. The park was full of families seeing the birth of a new wildflower on a hiking trail and or simply having a cook out. The lakes were a place of solace for fishermen and auto-touring was extremely popular. Many had time to drive the park drive and see the views with "new eyes". Maplewood Park has been a place of blessing, peace and healing during challenging times.

Autumn brought the usual leaf lookers and hikers flocking to view the breathtaking colors. 1000's of cars lined up to take photos along the park office boulevard enjoying the welcoming splendor of a handful of colorful maple trees to greet people who came for their first time and those who have made the turning of the leaves in fall an annual pilgrimage. Guests enjoyed the Josh Hanson picnic shelter, the warm waters of the beach and picnic area and the achievement of the new Hallaway Hill Overlook Trail. 1000's made that journey, the young and the old. The Horse camps were filled with beautiful horses and their riders.....longing for the trails and making another season of memories.

This past year has been a year of change, and we look forward together to new days of refreshment and wonder in the hills & valleys, lakes & prairies of Maplewood throughout the seasons of life.

Thank you to the Friends of Maplewood for your kind, gracious and faithful support of Maplewood State Park throughout this past year and in future years to come. We welcome the opportunity to see you again and look forward to the joy of gathering and working together.

Minnesota State Park's Mission:

"Our vision is to create unforgettable park, trail and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations."



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Permit #40

Friends of Maplewood
Box 259
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
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CANDLELIGHT SKI

CANCELLED



Because of Covid 19, we had to cancel our Candlelight Ski, but Maplewood State Park is open. You can come and go cross country skiing at any time. Snowshoeing is also available. Maplewood has 16 pairs of snowshoes to rent. If you want to rent them, call ahead of time to make sure someone is at the Contact Station.

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.

