



The Maple Leaf

Winter/Spring 2015

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. 21 – Candlelight Ski
April 11 – Maple Syrup Day

Advisory Committee

Steve Nagle, *chairperson*
Alma & Marvin Ronningen, *secretary*
Stu & Corinne Peterson, *treasurer*
Kay & Denny Albright, *membership*
Judy Babler
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
Cris Kling
Diane & Dave Knopf
Phyllis & Cliff Knutson
Bob & Karen Kreiser
Bonnie & John Nordstrom
Sonyia & Dan Oehler
Larry & Judy Olson
Wayne Runningen
Mary & Chuck Sorum
Lila & Alex Stoffel
Becky Thompson
Yvonne & Lyle Tweten

2014 Deer Hunting at Maplewood State Park

Nearly 100 deer hunters participated in the 2014 special deer hunt at Maplewood. The 4-day deer hunt (November 8th -11th) was a good, safe, and wonderful experience for hunters. 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 400 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 41 deer were harvested during the 2014 Special Deer.

Archery in the Park Program



Want to learn how to shoot a bow in a safe, supervised setting? The Archery in the Parks program is designed for families and people of all ages and skill levels. Get hands on instruction from a certified instructor along with experience with target practice. Learn a lifelong skill. Must be 8 years and



older. Adult must accompany younger participants. All equipment is provided. **This popular Archery in the Park program is coming back to Maplewood State Park on Sat., May 2nd 2015 from 10 AM -1 PM.**

Call 218 863.8383 if you have any further questions.

NEWS and NOTES

BEAR BENCH WINNER



Dave Johnson of Fargo was the winner in our drawing for the Bear Bench and he was excited to get the bench. When the bench was delivered I discovered that it had been his first time to visit Maplewood State Park. His friend convinced him to go to Maplewood. Riding around the park with his head out the moon roof provided awesome sights, and he was truly impressed with the maple trees at the contact station. Spending \$20.00 on tickets for the bear bench was a good investment. Having no kids I tried to convince him to find a wife with some kids to enjoy the bench. “No thanks” was his reply, but he was going to decorate it for Christmas and place it in his window. Good advertisement for

Maplewood State Park. Thank you Dave for investing in Maplewood State Park. Special thanks to Ron Baker for building the bench and donating it to the Friends of Maplewood. It found a good home Ron.

ANNUAL MEETING 2014

Our Friends of Maplewood Annual Meeting was held on September 4th at the Josh Hanson Picnic Shelter. There



were 60 people present to listen to the review of 2014 at Maplewood State Park by Park Manager Don DelGreco and also an update on the multi-use trail being planned from Pelican Rapids to Perham and passing through Maplewood State Park. Some special guests were Fred Berg who grew up in Maplewood State Park and Cecil Fleming who lived next to what

is now Maplewood State Park. Cecil joined us that evening even though he was celebrating his 94th birthday. Lots of information about the land of Maplewood State Park can be found by talking to those two men. Richard and Alberta Baker were also present at the annual meeting. Richard was also present in 1973 for the dedication of Maplewood State Park and the unveiling of the plaque honoring his father Dr. Norman Baker, who died in 1972. The plaque says: “AN UNEXCELLED HUMANITARIAN AND CONSERVATIONIST WHOSE ENERGY, FORESIGHT, AND DEDICATION HELPED CREATE MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK. MAY OTHERS FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE.” We like to think that in our own small way, the Friends of Maplewood, are doing just that. We look for good things to come from the Friends of Maplewood now and in the future. Thank you all for your continued support by becoming a member each and every year.



MEMORIALS

We always appreciate when people remember the Friends of Maplewood with memorials.

Such was the case with **Glenn Fladmark**. A Friend of Maplewood member sent us a memorial in memory of Glenn. The family of Glenn also sent the Friend’s group a memorial. In a conversation with Glenn’s sister, Mary Bowers, I discovered they grew up in Maplewood. She told me Glenn enjoyed the land of Maplewood and loved to fish in Fladmark Lake, which bears their family name. They also hunted partridges. Homemade maple syrup was part of his life as he often helped Budd Andrews with his operation. They will be happy to know that this memorial will be going to help build our Sugar Shack which will help to teach people about how to make maple syrup for years to come. Thank you to the Fladmarks.



OLD WOOD

Do you have any old wood lying around? Do you have an old shed that leans or has fallen down? If you do, we have a deal for you. You can deliver that wood, call us and we'll pick it up, or we will even find someone to take the shed down. We are looking for old lumber: 1x4, 1x6, 1x8. Any shape. We'll saw it up and keep the good parts.

So why do we need wood? During Leaf Days we use that lumber to let kids build bird houses or bird feeders. It is too costly to buy new lumber and the old stuff works great. So if you can help us out, the number to call is 218-334-6567. Thank you very much.

And if you like to build, we can always use adults to help the kids during Leaf Days. All you need to do is volunteer.



RUNNING WILD TRAIL RUN

Where: Maplewood State Park

When: Saturday, June 13, 2015 9:00

Why: Benefiting Health Resources Center of FF

3 Events to choose from:

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

Further information: www.runningwildtrailrun.com

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have 33 Lifetime members.
We are happy to announce our newest.

Joyce & Ronald Flaig, Fargo
 Ruth & Van Holmgren, Pelican
 Bonnie & John Nordstrom, Frazee
 Alma & Marvin Ronningen, Dent
 Annette & Steve Sprague, Fargo

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$54,049.68 in our checking account

HALLOWEEN FUN FESTIVAL

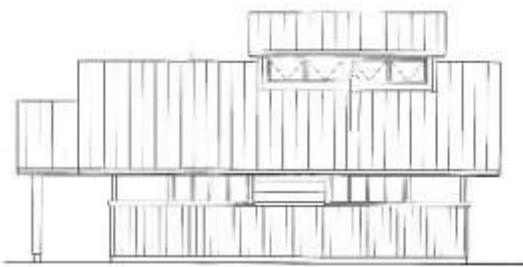


The Halloween Fun Festival was a colossal success, 124 partygoers of all ages took part in an afternoon of games, crafts, food and trick or treating. The first couple of hours were spent making craft projects playing games, listening to stories and having some Witches' Stew. Then off to trick or treating in the main campground. 17 out of the 20 occupied sites and 3 out of the 5 cabins took part in handling out treats. The campsite-decorating contest was a lot of fun. Partygoers voted for their favorite campsite for each of the three categories- Silliest, Most Creative and People's Choice. The night ended with a bonfire and roasted marshmallows.

The event was well received by almost everyone. Some campers had made reservations because of seeing it on the website, and others who were camping, but did not know about the party, made trips into town to get treats and some decoration supplies so they would not miss out on the fun. We even had a family that drove out from Minneapolis for the day to see the park for the first time and take part in the fun; they roasted their first marshmallows ever and loved them! Thanks to Mary Knutson for this event and all the other activities she offers during the summer. She her schedule for next summer in this newsletter.



SUGAR SHACK



We are almost there! The design of the Sugar Shack is closing in on its final plan and a Fall 2015 ribbon cutting.

A key meeting held in November included the Friends' Sugar Shack

Committee and representatives of the DNR from St. Paul, Fergus Falls and Bemidji.

The 13 people in attendance discussed many aspects of the building and the maple interpretive program. All the input from the DNR was talked about and agreement was reached on key issues and concepts. Those ideas were taken by the architects from the DNR and soon they will be returned for final

approval by the committee.



As you can see the plan calls for a building 20' X 28' which will be placed in the area near the Trail Center, but in the opposite (northwest) corner of the existing parking area. The DNR picked the exact site so it will fit with future long range plans for a new Trail / Visitor Center. The building will utilize volunteer labor to the extent possible, but under the direction of a certified contractor. The roof will be metal, and the exterior will have a rustic presentation to look like a traditional sugar shack. The roof will also contain a cupola to give the building a traditional look. Inside there will be room for the evaporator, firewood, shelving for storage, sink, and a

large area for viewing the operation. Eventually we hope to have displays of different ways the making of maple syrup has been done in the past.

The reality of the Sugar Shack for Maplewood State Park is 100%. We hope to break ground and start work in May of 2015 with a completion date and ribbon cutting ceremony during Leaf Days in September of 2015.

The Friends of Maplewood Sugar Shack Committee has included Stu Peterson, Jerry Jacobson, Bob Hanson, Steve Nagel, Don DelGreco, Jeff Fjestad and John Nordstrom.

VOLUNTEERS

We will soon be looking for volunteers to build. Can you handle a hammer? Can you operate a saw? Can you take instructions? Can you sit and drink coffee and comment on how the others are doing? Can you give instructions on the correct way to build? If any of those fit you, then you can volunteer to help in the building of our Sugar Shack.

If you are interested, please contact John Nordstrom. nordlake7@hotmail.com 218-334-6567

DONATIONS

for the SUGAR SHACK

We are not sure of the exact cost of our Sugar Shack, but we do know that it is the responsibility of the Friends of Maplewood to raise all the money. Our bank account says we are in good shape, but we are out looking for donations so our funds are not totally depleted. We have been actively pursuing money from charitable organizations and individuals. Lake Region Electric Cooperative has donated the wire and labor to plow in a cable from the transformer to the location of our Sugar Shack.

Would you be interested in making a monetary donation to our Sugar Shack? Would you be interested in purchasing a Lifetime Membership to the Friends of Maplewood for \$500.00? All of that money would go towards our projects at Maplewood.

If so, you can mail the monetary donation or Lifetime Membership to Friends of Maplewood, PO Box 259, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572. Please make any checks out to Parks and Trails and put Friends of Maplewood on the memo line. Parks and Trails is our fiscal agent and we piggy back on their 501 (c)3 for tax deductible financial donations. Be assured that any money donated to the Friends of Maplewood through the Parks and Trails is returned to us in full when they pay the bills we submit to them.

MAPLE SYRUP SEASON 2015

Not far into 2015 and the Maplewood Syrup Team with leader Bob Hanson will begin thinking about the maple syrup season. It is always up to Mother Nature as to when this takes place. The team will need helpers to clean the equipment, put out taps, collect the sap, check on the boiling sap, and keep the fires burning. If you



are interested in helping or learning the process you can contact Bob Hanson 218-758-2132, call the park office 218-863-8383, or email nordlake7@hotmail.com. If you contact us then when the season starts we'll contact you to come help or learn.

Our main demonstration day is April 11th. We will be demonstrating maple syrup production and offering you some maple treats. Come join us that Saturday from 10:00 – 3:00.



VERGAS MAPLE SYRUP DAYS

Vergas holds its annual celebration on April 11, 2015. Some of the activities are pancake breakfast, 5K Maple Syrup Run at 9:00 (registration at 8:00), and egg hunt at 11:00. We have our maple syrup open house at Maplewood State Park that day also.



THE RANGER REPORT

Don Del Greco



The early and persistent snowfalls of 2014 set the stage for excellent winter recreation conditions. The bitter cold snaps tempered visitation, however snowmobiling, skiing and snowshoeing activities surged during the

prolonged winter season. The brisk temperatures of the Candlelight/Moonlight ski event made for a memorable evening with good snow conditions, and warm conversation served over good food thanks to the hospitality of the Friends of Maplewood members.

The record extreme cold winter weather delayed the always highly anticipated annual maple syrup season and a very good quality harvest of syrup seemed especially sweet after the prolonged winter season. A hearty crew of dedicated “Friends” volunteered many hours in the cool and invigorating early spring woodlands. Once again this year many local youth (including the “Maplewood Mondays/Pelican Rapids School District) were given their first “real taste” of maple syruping through a series of interpretive outreach activities and programs.

The lingering effects of the winter season were followed by one of the wettest Junes on record with over 18” of rain falling in Maplewood. The heavy rainfalls created challenges for park staff and guests as flooding and high water levels throughout the park affected park roads, trails, culverts and raised water levels throughout the park. Park horse trails and campgrounds, along with the scenic 4.5 mile Park Drive were intermittently and temporarily closed as wet conditions limited use in these areas. Two tornado warnings were issued during this period involving the safe and effective evacuation of campgrounds with thankfully no harm to park guests and very limited wind damage in the park.

Park staff displayed resourcefulness and resiliency in working to maintain park facilities and preserving precious park resources all the while providing with hospitality for the varying needs of park guests and the increasing heavy summer use period. Extraordinary time and effort was required to maintain facilities and to accommodate park guests during this prolonged period of high water conditions.

The wet weather of June unfolded into the glorious and verdant lush greens of the busy “peak of summer” use period at Maplewood. Park visitation swelled as summer finally arrived with many “picture perfect” weather weekdays and weekends throughout July and August providing for excellent outdoor recreation conditions.

Late summer/fall park attendance continued to surge and Maplewood’s 2014 overall attendance numbers swelled to 124,532 guests, which is up 10% from the 112,731 guests of 2013. Continued excellent weather on weekends, holidays and special events along with an extended fall color season boosted overall park attendance significantly.

Excellent fishing on the local lakes has been the norm throughout the year with a significant increase in watercraft rentals this summer with many new “first-time” watercraft users are taking advantage of Maplewood’s varied and abundant water resources.

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

The Regional Resource Crew and Maplewood staff once again teamed together for another great year of working on prairie restorations. This dedicated crew continues the consistent, persistent and combined efforts of mowing, prescribed burning, planting, invasive species spraying, and patience to keep moving ahead with prairie re-establishment. The colorful prairie grasses and forbs were particularly abundant this late summer and the autumn landscape offered many colorful views of prairie landscapes.

The 2014 season unfolded with two of Maplewood’s seasonal Parks Workers accepting full-time positions and we congratulate both Mary Norton and Meghan Lewis on their new opportunities. The vacancies left park staff scrambling to cover park operations and park staff performed their duties most admirably as positions were filled and new employees hired. Personnel updates for this season include the hiring of 3 new employees. Please join us in welcoming Maplewood’s new team members, Parks Worker, Erika Wood, Michelle Pike, and Building and Grounds Worker, Clay Novotny. Please stop by this spring to meet and greet our new employees.

2014 Special Programs/Events:

June 2-3 Horse Enduro Competitive Ride 2014
North Country Trail Grand Opening – June 7th
NEW in 2014: National Trails Day – June 7th
June 14th - 3rd Annual Running Wild-Maplewood State
Park 7K Trail Run
NEW in 2014 Plein Air Art - Pre Event – August 30th
NEW in 2014 September 20th Artist's Plein Air Event
Leaf Days Sept 27-28 and October 4-5
NEW in 2014: Little Free Library Pilot Project

A special thanks to volunteer Maplewood's naturalist Mary Knutson and artist Lila Stoffel for their continued and consistent interpretive programming and outreach efforts. Also a special thanks to Charlotte Berger for her 20 years of faithful service as Campground Host at Maplewood State Park.

The Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter continues to provide an excellent venue for a wide variety of events from weddings, school groups, competitive runs, reunions, concerts etc., with over 30 scheduled/reserved events this year.

We continue to see an increase in new, "first-time" guests and young families coming to Maplewood to experience the beauty and wonder of Maplewood's woods, lakes and prairies. We are grateful for our fine customers for whom it is a privilege to serve and look forward to welcoming the future generations of park visitors.

The abundant rainfalls of spring and summer set the stage for the always treasured celebration of "Autumn Splendor" at Maplewood. The 2014 Autumn season unfolded with a spectacular opening weekend "Leaf Day celebration with "summer-like" weather and large crowds of enthusiastic "Leaf-Lookers" savoring the wonder of Maplewood. Statewide news releases and publications promoting Maplewood's treasured fall colors added to the traditions of heavy visitation. The fall season lingered well into October with swelling attendance numbers as camping, horse riding and hiking kept park staff, Friends of Maplewood volunteers busy with public service.

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

Don DelGreco

LEAF DAYS 2014

As we plan each year for Leaf Days we try to evaluate the leaf color, look at the weather forecast, and plow through our records from years past to figure out how much food to purchase. Some has to be ordered ahead of time and it becomes quite an educated guess. So then the first Saturday the weather is clear, sunny, and 80, the leaves are close to peak, we have had good coverage in the area news, 1484 cars come to Maplewood State Park, and we sell out of most of our food that we purchased for 2 weekends. It is a good feeling, but left us scrambling to now have to predict all over again. When the 2nd weekend came to an end, our tally sheet showed us with a profit of \$8647.98 for the 2014 Leaf Days. Lots of thanks to spread around for all who showed up to work, teach, chat with visitors, or just enjoy the beauty of Maplewood.

We had a nice assortment of activities to be offered. Our wagon rides went constantly and always filled. It is a nice way to relax, look at nature, and listen to learn some of the history of Maplewood State Park. There was always a Friend of Maplewood on board to tell the story. The first Saturday was Mary Knutson's Fall Colors Photo Walk. They quit counting at 150 people. And Lila Stoffel was going to teach Drawing Maplewood Landscapes at 11 and 2. She started at 11 and quit when her 150 sheets of paper were gone. Those are just two of the many stories of great attendance during Leaf Days.

We are always looking for something people would be interested in learning about during Leaf Days. Do you have a suggestion or idea? Is there something you would be willing to share a time or two at Maplewood? Do you know of some musicians who might be willing to share some music with the visitors? We are open to suggestions. Contact John Nordstrom at 218-334-6567 or nordlake7@hotmail.com.





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CANDLELIGHT SKI

**SATURDAY, February 21st
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.

Maplewood Classes 2015

Here is an early peek at what is in store for Mary Knutson's classes next summer. We will probably have other classes to announce with our Summer News. If you have questions for Mary, you can email her at: maplewoodclasses@gmail.com

June-

Explore Maplewood PhotoWalk- Saturday June 13th 9:30am Whether you are a beginner, amateur or professional photographer does not matter. Bring whatever type of camera that you use, after all the best camera is the one you have with you. Join us for a Photo Walk. We will leave from the trail center taking about a 1-mile walk taking pictures of nature's beauty along the way and will return to the trail center to share our photos and have some refreshments. The goal is to get out and explore with your camera, have fun and build new relationships! Wear comfy shoes and dress for the weather!

Plant a Pocket of Prairie Saturday June 13th 1:00pm Preschool and School- aged children come learn about the prairie grasses that grow in the park and make a craft project to take home. Parents must attend with children. Class held at the campground host site in the main campground.

July-

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatball's Class Saturday July 11th 11:00 am Preschool and School- aged children come learn about the ever-changing weather and make a craft project to take home. Parents must attend with children. Class held at the campground host site in the main campground.

August-

Digital Scavenger Hunt Saturday August 1st 9:45 am- 11:00 am Grab your digital camera and a team of up to 5 people to explore and take pictures of the nature's beauty in the park. There will be a beginners division and an advanced division. The first 3 teams in each division back to the registration table within the allotted time with the most correct pictures will earn a prize. Registration from 9:45 am-10:00 am will be held at the Campground Host site, with the scavenger hunt beginning at 10:00 am.

Campfire cooking it's in the bag! Saturday August 1st 4:00 pm Learn some great tips on how to take the work out of campfire cooking as well as sample some tasty campfire foods. Class is open to the whole family children must attend with parents. Class size is limited to 25 please register in the park office (218)863-8383 or by emailing Mary at maplewoodclasses@gmail.com. Class held at the campground host site in the main campground.

October-

Halloween Fun Festival Saturday October 17th 5pm-7pm Head down to the Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter as we start our Halloween celebration with some fun, food and craft projects! Make a trick-or-treat bag for the evening festivities. There are a limited number of supplies, so when they are gone, they are gone! If you are camping, decorate your campsite! There will be different categories with prizes! Kids can go trick or treating in the campground. Sites that are willing to participate in the trick or treating will have orange pumpkin cards on their site posts.

Schedule of Events:

3:00-4:30pm- Games and Craft Station s at the Josh Hanson Memorial Shelter

4:30-5:00 pm- Stories, Songs, and Snacks at the Josh Hanson Memorial Shelter

5:00-6:00pm Break (On Your Own)

6:00-6:45pm Trick or Treating & Campsite Site Judging in the Main Campground Sites that are willing to participate in the trick or treating will have orange pumpkin cards on their site posts.

6:30- Bonfire & Marshmallow Roast Start at Campground Host Site (site 21) Bring your own marshmallow sticks and Chairs

7:00- Prizes awarded for Campsite Decorating Contest