



The Maple Leaf

SUMMER 2015

Friends of Maplewood State Park Box 259 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

SUMMER HAPPENINGS at MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

If you have questions about a class you can call Maplewood State Park, 218-863-8383 or email Mary at maplewoodclasses@gmail.com. Some class sizes are limited so please register for those. Ask at the contact station where the classes will meet.

JUNE

13th 9:30 AM Explore Maplewood PhotoWalk

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!

13th 1:00 PM Plant a Pocket of Prairie

Preschool & School- aged children come learn about the prairie grasses that grow in the park and make a craft project to take home. Parents attend with children. Class held at the campground host site in the main campground.

**13th 9:00 AM 4th Annual
RUNNING WILD TRAIL RUN
Maplewood State Park**

Register information at:

www.RunningWildTrailRun.com

9:00 Kids Run Wild 200 yd. dash
9:05 WEE Run Wild 200 yd. dash
9:15 Kids awards
9:30 7k run
9:35 1 mile LIFE HIKE
11:00 Awards

**20th 11:00 – 12:15 Drawing Maplewood
Flora & Fauna**

As in the past, the drawing sessions will focus on what's going on in the park. Wild flowers, landscape vistas, birds, butterflies are some themes that will be used. No prior drawing skills are required. Its open for all ages and children must be accompanied by a parent (adult). The drawing sessions are a great family event that encourage appreciation of the natural environment, specifically in and around Maplewood State Park. All supplies are provided by the Friends of Maplewood organization and there is no fee for the drawing sessions. The sessions are led by Lila Hauge Stoffel and meet at the Josh Hanson Picnic Shelter, rain or sunshine.

JULY

**11th 11:00 AM
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**

Preschool and School-aged children come learn about the ever-changing weather and make a craft project to take home. Parent must attend with children. Class held at the campground host site in the main campground.

**18th 11:00 – 12:15 Drawing Maplewood
Flora & Fauna**

(see June 20th above for information)

25th ART in the PARK (not in Maplewood)

Looking for something to do on July 25th. Visit Art in the Park in Pelican Rapids and support our Friends of Maplewood food booth. All money earned goes to help Maplewood State Park.

AUGUST

1st 9:45 – 11:00 AM Digital Scavenger Hunt
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 with 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.

1st 4:00 PM
Campfire cooking it's in the bag!
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. Parents must attend with children. Class size is limited to 25. Please register: park office 218-863-8383 or emailing Mary at maplewoodclasses@gmail.com. Class held at the campground host site in the main campground.

15th 11:00 – 12:15 Drawing Maplewood Flora & Fauna
(see June 20th above for information)

SEPTEMBER

19th 9:30 AM Artist's Plein Air Event
Plein Air is a French expression meaning "in the open air" and is painting from life on-location. Such an event will be held at Maplewood State Park and led by Raleigh Kinney, who has enjoyed a reputation for his work nationally for the past 35 years.
Registration is \$45.00 if paid by August 15th. \$60.00 after that date and registration closes September 9th.
9:30 coffee/registration in the Josh Hanson Park Shelter
10:00 Presentation/Demonstration of Plein Air Painting by guest artist Raleigh Kinney, Signature member of Plein Air Painters of America (PAPA).

Noon- Lunch & Conversation with other artists. Bring your own lunch.

12:30 On-location drawing and painting under the direction of Raleigh Kinney

3:30 Critique of works from the days efforts, conducted by Raleigh Kinney

The general public is invited to watch the artists work in the afternoon (Trail Center) and also to listen in on the critique session at 3:30.

26th & 27th 10:00 – 4:00 Leaf Days

Various activities by the Friends group: geo-caching, demonstrations, displays, hikes, wagon rides, food vendor, clothing sales, and maple syrup sales. More events will be scheduled and detailed in our Fall Newsletter.

OCTOBER

3rd and 4th 10:00 – 4:00 Leaf Days

Various activities by the Friends group: geo-caching, demonstrations, displays, hikes, wagon rides, food vendor, clothing sales, and maple syrup sales. More events will be scheduled and detailed in our Fall Newsletter.

17th 5:00 – 7:00 pm Halloween Fun Festival

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 – 4:30 Games and Craft Stations at the Josh Hanson Memorial Shelter

4:30 – 5:00 Stories, Songs, and Snacks

5:00 – 6:00 Break (on your own)

6:00 – 6:45 Trick or Treating & Campsite judging in the Main Campground

6:30 Bonfire & Marshmallow Roast start at Campground Host Site #21. Bring your own marshmallow sticks and chairs.

7:00 prizes awarded for Campsite Decorating Contest

THINGS TO DO AT MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

HIKING: 25 miles of hiking trails.

Favorite hikes:

- a. Hallaway Hill -this 1 mile hike is all uphill for ½ mile but the view from the top is wonderful.
- b. Woodland Trail ¾ mile
- c. Cataract Lake Trail 1 mile
- d. Grass Lake Trail Interpretive Trail 1.2 miles Interpretive signs

GPS: Check out a GPS at the Ranger Station and go find the 2 geocaches in Maplewood State Park. It is a fun and gives you a chance to explore the woods of Maplewood. The Park Office will give you a few pointers as to how to use the GPS. No charge.

Canoe: We have 4 on Beers Lake, 2 on Grass Lake, 1 on Bass Lake

Kayak: 2 single person kayaks and 1 tandem kayak on Beers Lake



Boats: 5 on Beers Lake, 3 on Bass Lake, 2 on Grass Lake

[Canoe, kayak, or boat rentals: \$15.00 for ½ day (5 hours or less) \$25.00 for all day lifejackets included in price]

Fishing: Remember Minnesota residents can fish without a license in Maplewood State Park on the following lakes: Beers, Grass, Twenty-one, and Cow. Bass Lake requires a Minnesota fishing license & trout stamp. Park Also has fishing poles to check out, no charge.

Horse Trails: 20 miles

Wildlife viewing: Wildlife viewing blind on Beaver Lake. Drive or bike the scenic park drive to view wildlife!

Swimming: South Lake Lida No Lifeguard

Picnic area: South Lake Lida Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter

PASSPORT CLUB: Purchase kit at Park Office. Each time you visit a different State Park you get a stamp. When you have visited so many different State Parks, you can earn patches and free night of camping.

HIKING CLUB: Purchase kit at Park office. Each time you hike a different hiking club trail in a Minnesota State Park you record our mileage and password in the provided book. You can earn patches, free night of camping for various miles hiked. The hiking club trail at Maplewood is a little over six miles. Ask at park office for details.

JUNIOR PARK NATURLIST: Ages 7 –14 free books at Park Office. Book has activities to do at the State Park

Kids Discovery Kits: Kits feature activities, stories and tips to help ensure your visit will be fun and memorable. Check out free of charge one of the discovery kits at the park office: Camping Skills, Around the Campfire, or Wildlife by Water.

Birding Kits: Check out free of charge a birding kit at the park office. The birding kit comes with binoculars, a guide book and bird lists for Maplewood State Park.

Campfire Pie Makers: Check out free of charge campfire pie makers at the park office.

FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD

The Friends of Maplewood is an organization of people who help support Maplewood State Park. We raise money to complete projects that improve the park. The picnic shelter is one example. We also sponsor the annual Candlelight Ski and offer support for any projects for which the park needs help. One of the ways we raise money is through our membership dues. You can show your support by purchasing a membership which entitles you to our twice a year Maple Leaf Newsletter to keep you informed. If you would like to join, your 2015 dues are payable at the Park Office. They have an application blank.

\$5 Single \$10 Couple \$25 Family \$500 Lifetime

Kevin Kvenvolden

Maplewood State Park employee

Kevin graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1983 with a degree in Forestry. In March of 1989 he applied for a job at Maplewood. For 25 years Kevin has held the position of Buildings and Grounds supervisor at Maplewood State Park. The position is seasonal and he works 6 ½ months from mid-April until the end of October. He calls it the best job he has ever had and in talking with him one realizes how much he cares for Maplewood State Park.



At times when you visit Maplewood you will see Kevin almost every time you turn around because he is involved in all aspects of caring for the park. Other times you visit you might never see him, but when you think about the 9000 acres that he cares for it is understandable.

Most mornings they meet at 8:30 to discuss the day's activities and what needs to be done. The fact that everyone who works at the park is not afraid to get out and get dirty makes the group a big happy family and a fun work environment. Kevin appreciates the summer helpers, especially when they return year after year, so he doesn't have to spend a lot of time training them. His favorite job would be operating a chain saw. The enjoyment of felling a tree and cutting it up is something he could do all day. He also enjoys cleaning the buildings and then later finding a comment card that says "clean bathrooms, we'll be back". Opening and closing buildings, road maintenance, and 40 miles of trails to maintain are other responsibilities. Having to spend time in the office would be on his list of least favorite jobs. All I know is that there is a lot of knowledge about what needs to be done in Maplewood recorded in Kevin's head and he'll be a tough person to have to replace some day.

Getting to visit with campers when he is on night security work is fun. Those campers really are good

people. Kevin stated, "They make the park look good because most of them are responsible and clean up after themselves in the bathroom and fish cleaning areas." Watching the little kids in the park having fun is a great joy. On night security he refers to the loud noise of the kids as "going to bed noise".

When they put in that Little Library, Kevin thought it wouldn't last long. "I am amazed at how many people use it. It is such a great addition to Maplewood," Kevin stated. One day he found a little girl sitting behind the library reading. Striking up a conversation he discovered she had been fishing all morning with her dad, told him she was tired of that, and was going to go spend some time reading. He stops often to read the comments left in the notebook in the little library.

This spring they couldn't get water to come out of the spigot in the fish cleaning house. The sprayers worked, but not the spigot. It was a head scratcher. They finally took the top off the spigot, but still no water. Using his finger he could push down on the hole and it was spongy. Finally water shot out of the hole and the mouse fell out of the nozzle. Problems like this make his job interesting and sometimes full of humor.

As he looks back over his 25 years, he just marvels at all the improvements at Maplewood. It has come a long way, but there is still room for more. His #1 choice would be an improved and larger shower building at the main campground.

When you're in Maplewood and in need of a good conversation, go find Kevin. He enjoys talking about the park and you will soon learn that this is a big job, but he truly enjoys Maplewood State Park and taking care of it. During your conversation maybe you can help him figure out how to get that load of gravel up to the top of Hallaway Hill. Thanks Kevin for all that you do.

Check out our Friends of Maplewood website.

friendsofmaplewood.org

Thanks to Brenda & Aubrey Ebanks for setting it up and always keeping it current.