



The Maple Leaf

Fall 2018

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. 6—Annual Meeting
Sept. 29-30 — Leaf Days
Oct. 6-7 — Leaf Days
Feb. 23 – Candlelight Ski
April ? – Maple Syrup Day

Advisory Committee

John Nordstrom, **chairperson**
Denise Laymon, **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 Nordstrom
Larry & Judy Olson
Wayne Runningen
Richard Smestad
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

September 29-30 October 6-7

You can feel it. Some days, in the evening, it gets cooler. The leaves will soon start to change and it will be time to head to Maplewood to view the colors. We will have wagon rides and many more activities for all ages to enjoy. The Friends of Maplewood will be selling food, clothing, and maple syrup at the picnic shelter. Come hike, marvel at the color, and enjoy the many activities.

VOLUNTEERS

Each of the 4 days it takes about 30 people to operate and work all of the activities and stations. Can you help us?

One day, half a day? It's lots of fun.

Contact John Nordstrom to volunteer.

nordlake7@hotmail.com 218-334-6567

Friends of Maplewood WEBSITE

friendsofmaplewood.org

SUMMER

We had 4 great **Music at Maplewood** events this summer. Good weather and great crowds made for fun evenings of music.



Kimmel / Longtine



Mark Fogelson



Lenertz / Thornby Duo



The Friends of Maplewood combined with the Pelican Rapids area churches to offer an evening of **MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP, NATURE**. A meal was served and then Greta Johnson played some good Christian songs that she makes come alive on her keyboard. It was great to sit in the outdoors and listen to music.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING at MAPLEWOOD

Heidi Smith, art teacher at Barnsville, offered two opportunities to come and experiment with watercolor paints. One class was held on a Monday morning. First time to offer a class not on the weekend. Great attendance showed us that Maplewood opportunities do not need to be held on the weekend. 105 people, ages 2 to 70, came out for the fun painting classes. There were campers, grandparents with grandkids, people from FM area, visitors from Colorado and local people who were happy Maplewood had a painting event.



HAPPENINGS

Running Wild Trail Run

June 9, 2018 7th Annual Running Wild Trail Run

We had an amazing morning with 323 runners/hikers of all ages and 51 hardworking and energetic volunteers helping to make for another successful event.

Top Overall Male in the 7K was Kyle Schulte of Moorhead, MN with a time of 29:03

Top Overall Female in the 7K was Jaci Wilson of Fergus Falls, MN with a time of 31:01



There are many runners that continue to return to Maplewood each year to participate in Running Wild Trail Run. We look forward to the **EIGHTH annual Running Wild Trail Run on Saturday June 8, 2019.**

For more information visit www.RunningWildTrailRun.com

The organizers, Mary Ellen and Erin,

with Park Manager Don DelGreco

MEDITATION at MAPLEWOOD

Sue Nyhus, offered to teach a class on meditation, in nature, at Maplewood. It was a time to relax and have a quiet mind. As we closed our eyes, relaxed, and sat quietly, Sue talked us through about 25 minutes of clearing our minds. Lots of positive comments. She led the class 3 times this summer, once during each month during the Full Moon. Thank you Sue for your time. Maybe she'll be back for 3 more next summer.

TREE PLANTING GRANT

The Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota contacted the Friends of Maplewood about applying for one of their \$5000 grants. Tree planting was one of the possibilities and after talking with Park Managers and Friends of Maplewood we decided to write the grant. Stu Peterson headed up the writing committee of one and after some talk with the Friends group we decided to pursue planting maple trees at Maplewood to replace some ash trees that might have a short life span. It was also decided to have 15 ten foot trees planted because they have a better chance of survival. The Friends of Maplewood had to provide 10% of the grant at a cost of \$500.00.



The trees were planted on June 14th. Maplewood will be responsible to keep them watered during the times that it doesn't rain. The trees are a great addition to Maplewood State Park and some of them, which were planted at the Contact Station, will be greeting visitors for years to come.

Maple Syrup Demonstration Day

Woke up Saturday, April 7th, to temps in the single digit, put on long underwear and a lot of other warm stuff and headed to the park because we had a lot of volunteers coming and food we'd have to take back because it hadn't been used. We were sure the crowds would be small and most of the help could get sent home. But, due to climate change, crowds are showing up when they shouldn't be showing up.



It was a great day. 170 cars and 1 bus with 45 ladies on board. Using a complex equation and multiplying the number of cars by a certain number and adding in the bus people the park came up with a total of 550 visitors. We were shocked. It was busy all day from shortly before 10:00 until around 2:30.

People learned about making maple syrup, some of the history of collecting and boiling sap, and identifying maple trees.

I'd like to thank all the people who brought treats to share with the visitors. We had about 30 volunteers who worked hard to make it a special day for all the visitors. So Thanks: Lorin Abel, Denny Albright, Lynn & Tom Carlson, Rosie & Jim Clemenson, Don DelGreco, Carol & Sanford Emery, Judi Engebretson, Jeff Fjestad, Kathy & Bob Hanson, Terry Heller, Carla & Robin Johnson, Patricia Junes, John McMillen, Bonnie & John Nordstrom, Stu Peterson, Alma Ronningen, Wayne Runningen, Chuck Sorum, Stephanie & Scott Stenshoel

And THANK YOU also for Denise and Brian Laymon for providing the horse pulled wagon rides. They had helpers also: Katelyn Schaefer, Keaton Laymon, Nora Heilman, Denise & Wayne Erickson, and Donna.

We sold out all our syrup and almost all of the parks. This event is not meant to be a money maker, but with donations, syrup sales, clothing, & food we do bring in about \$300. We pay for the horse ride insurance and lunch for the volunteers.



Maple Syrup for Schools

With a new curriculum ready to go, we looked for volunteers to be trained in teaching the kids. Two training classes were offered and we had 18 people show up to learn. Nine area schools were contacted to see if they were interested in sending a class to Maplewood. We had 5 different groups take advantage of our maple syrup program. It takes about 9 volunteers to handle the 5 stations for the groups that come to Maplewood. Our volunteers were ready and we had no trouble getting people to help with each group: Underwood 6th graders, Frazee 4th graders, Pelican Rapids 6th graders, Detroit Lakes 9-12 FACS and AG class, DL Rossman 4th grade. (333 total kids)



MAPLE SYRUP 2018 SEASON

It was a good maple syrup season. Volunteers were willing to help tap and set up, help with the boils, and take down and clean up.

900 gallons—sap collected & boiled

5 boils

20 gallons of finished maple syrup

The maple syrup will be for sale at our Annual Meeting and Leaf Days.

Thanks to Bob Hanson and Loren Abel for taking charge of the maple syrup season.



CANDLELIGHT SKI 2018

In 2016 we had very little snow for the candlelight ski, so we walked. 2017 brought warm temps that turned the snow into ice and we had to cancel the candlelight ski. So when 2018 brought a ton of snow we were excited. And then for the big day, weather predicted a snow storm. So now what do we do? Cancel or show up for the few who brave the snow and come to Maplewood.

Show up they did. And they came, and came, and came, and in the end it was a total of 191 cars. When you figure an average of 2.5 people per car, that's 477 ½ people. OK we don't want to hurt anyone so we figure around 500 people. Our biggest crowd for a candlelight ski night ever. Yes, parking was an issue, a good issue to have.

Fun was had. They snowshoed, skied, and hiked the trail even as the snow continued to fall. It never did quit snowing, but the people continued to come. Snow angels and snowballs added to the excitement of being outside during a great Minnesota snow. A roaring campfire gave people an opportunity to stand out in the snow and stay warm. Inside the chili disappeared completely and there were no crumbs of cookies or bars to take home. It continued to snow throughout the evening and somebody said as they were leaving, how come everyone who came tonight drove a white car?

You can go to YouTube (type candlelight ski Maplewood into the search box) or our website to watch a fun video produced by Otter Tail Lakes County Association and Eric Osberg.

Special thanks to Denny and Kay Albright who organized the event for Friends of Maplewood and also Jeff Fjestad and Don DelGreco, our Park Managers, who put in extra time getting the trails and parking ready. Karen Kreiser should be thanked for making the chili. And of course the Friends of Maplewood volunteers: Lorin Abel, Carole Boole, Penny Brynildson, Bob Hanson, Terry Heller, Van & Ruth Holmgren, Ruth Holt, Karen & Bob Kreiser, John McMillen, Chris Oehler, Wayne Runningen, Mona Schmeets, Stephanie & Scott Stenshoel, Steve Toso. If we missed listing someone, we apologize.

2018 leaves a good memory of a fun evening in the snowy, winter, hillsides of Maplewood State Park.



Hallaway Hill Trail Reroute Project Commences

Don Del Greco

We are pleased to announce that construction work has begun on the new and accessible Hallaway Hill Hiking Trail. Additional trail work is planned for late August through mid-October and the existing trail will remain open to the public throughout the construction period.

The popular and scenic Hallaway Hill Overlook Trail has offered exceptionally scenic and breathtaking views of the Maple-leaf Hills for generations of park visitors.

The current trail route has been very heavily used and "appreciated" so much that rerouting the trail is necessary to address safety issues as erosion is threatening the integrity of the existing trail. The new alignment will provide for a safer, smoother and more accessible and sustainable route to the top of the most popular hiking trail in Maplewood State Park.

Hikers will directly benefit from an improved trail alignment that permits greater access through a series of strategically designed switchbacks and rest areas to accommodate climbing the steep topography to the higher trail elevations on route to the scenic overlook. Many new and extensive panoramic views will be available for hikers as the trail will wind and traverse through colorful prairies, shady hardwood forests on its route to the "top-of-Hill".

We deeply appreciate the funding support for this significant project provided by the Friends of Maplewood along with funding from the Parks and Trails Fund, created after the voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in November 2008.

This project will provide future generations the opportunity to continue to experience the beauty and wonder of Maplewood.

The Advisory Board of the Friends of Maplewood voted to give Maplewood State Park \$15,000 for the Hallaway Hill trail restoration project. Along with the grant they received it gave them enough money to start on the project immediately. We hope to be able to assist Maplewood with other projects after the trail restoration is completed. These might include the purchase of benches at rest points along the trail, updated signs at the top of Hallaway Hill and maybe even a small shelter at the top.

THE RANGER REPORT



HEADLINE STORIES 2018

PARK MANAGER Don Del Greco

The 2018 summer has unfolded to be blessed with many "picture - perfect" days and nights for the thousands of park guests that come to explore the beauty and wonder of Maplewood State Park. As we savor the lingering days of summer we eagerly await the upcoming joy and beauty of autumn celebrations in Maplewood.

-Maplewood Attendance: Over 154,000 visitors enjoyed the wonder of Maplewood in 2017. The 2018 visitation continues the trends of strong visitation numbers with the privilege of welcoming many new and returning park guests.

-Park Staff: Please join us in welcoming three new employees to Maplewood State Park team this year. Natural Resource Worker, Grant Lonz, Resource Program Building and Grounds Worker, Lisa Bjorgo and Building and Grounds Worker, Dale Westley. Park staff have worked efficiently and effectively to maintain and operate the park during what is one of our busiest summers in recent memory. We are thankful for their excellent work and resiliency.

-New Horse Campground/Day-Use Area Vault Toilet: A new vault toilet has been installed at the Maplewood Horse Campground. The project will welcome the horse community with an excellent new style vault toilet and will serve the public many years to come. The project was funded through the Minnesota State Horse Trail Pass Program.

-Horse Trail Pass projects: The Conservation Corps of MN (CCM) completed 2 weeks of horse trail maintenance projects this summer. The 6 person crew consisted of young adults from California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Maine.

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 to enjoy the wonder of Maplewood.



NOTES

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have 50 Lifetime members.
We are happy to announce our newest.

Lynn & Miriam Lundin

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

Bob Teschendorf
Mertice Saurer
Gertrude Quibell
Larry Beneke

GIVEN BY

John & Bonnie Nordstrom
David & Sandra Antonsen
Wayne Quibell
Jerry & Deb Hauge
Erik & Jenny Hauge

James Amdal
Ken Larson
Josh Hanson
Helen Seidel
Thom Thysell
Lynn Lundin
Lynn Lundin
Laverne Axness
Giles Korf

Ed & Sharon Fjestad
Lyle Haugrud
Helen Miller
Robert & Mary Bowers
John & Bonnie Nordstrom
John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Kay & Denny Albright
Ruth & Van Holmgren
John & Bonnie Nordstrom

IN HONOR OF

Larry & Judy Olson's 50th
Kathy & Richard Jensen's 50th

GIVEN BY

Kay & Denny Albright
Kay & Denny Albright

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 \$344.00 since our last newsletter from:

Cliff & Phyllis Knutson
Carol & Sanford Emery
Terry Heller

DONATIONS

Thomas Hintgen—money donation
Gloria Nord—pulley
Mary Bishoff—cooking pot maple syrup

Lynn Lundin passed away early this summer. When Lynn & Miriam moved to Pelican, Lynn had just suffered a stroke and was confined to a wheelchair. This did not stop their love for nature and Maplewood State Park. For 18 years, almost every Sunday year around, they went to church, then picked up a Subway sandwich and headed for Maplewood, where they would find a beautiful spot in the park, eat their lunch and enjoy the beauty of Maplewood. As Miriam says, "It was truly a blessing beyond measure for both Lynn and I."

THINGS WE NEED

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$45,893.58 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 Are Busy

Bike Trail Pelican to Perham through Maplewood State Park - They are in the process of applying for a grant to work on Phase 2 which is the 1.33 mile stretch along Highway 59. Friends of Maplewood were asked to send letters of support by July 26. Hopefully some of you did.

The Friends Advisory Board has been having discussions about installing **roll up doors** at the Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter. This would allow users to stop wind and rain if necessary. There is disagreement as to whether it should be allowed as it might take away from the aesthetics of the picnic shelter. Talks with Maplewood and some Advisory Board members continue.

A request has been made to **spray the Picnic Shelter** next spring for spiders as they can really make a mess. The Friends would pay to have it sprayed if the DNR gives us permission. Also looking at something for the top of the light at the Sugar Shack as the birds nest there and make a mess right in front of the door.

The Red Horse Ranch Saddle club is being dissolved. **\$5000 was donated** to the Friends group to do something at the horse camp. Discussions are ongoing with Maplewood as to what horse project the money should be spent. Once a project has been selected the Friends Advisory Board has voted to spend up to \$5000 more to help with the project if necessary.

Richard Smestad of the Advisory Board suggested **buying a television** and mounting it at the picnic shelter. It would be taken down when not in use. The purpose would be to use during Leaf Days so people could go out, take pictures, and load them on the TV. The pictures would be on a continuous scroll for people to look at. It could also be used by people renting the picnic shelter to show a video or slide show for weddings, anniversaries, or for other events. TV will be purchased before Leaf Days this year.

Bob Hanson is going to get some **pallets and organize some wood** on them for Maple Syrup production. The wood will be covered with tarps and then hauled up to the Sugar Shack when needed. It would be stored at the Maplewood maintenance area.

The metal work for a **Maple Syrup Arch** is being cut down for a 4 foot pan. Once that is done a new arch will be built up by the Sugar Shack. It will be used to demonstrate to visitors an at home way to make maple syrup.

Storage shelves are being built to store the maple syrup education materials at the Sugar Shack.

Painting of the floor at the picnic shelter kitchen and bathroom and working on **the native plants** around the picnic shelter are still in the plan.

Leaf Day Committee met in July to plan activities for the upcoming Leaf Days.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

On August 21st a group from the Friends of Maplewood Advisory Committee met at Maplewood State Park with Park Manager Don Del Greco, Asst. Park Manager Jeff Fjestad, Chuck Carpenter District Supervisor, and Chris Weir-Koetter Assistant Regional Manager. The goal is to identify what will the next 3-5 years look like at the park. What is reality and what is a dream? As we look at the future, the Friends of Maplewood can begin the process of what projects to focus our energy towards and what ideas we might have that fit with the DNR's picture of Maplewood. We look forward to the results of this meeting. This newsletter went to print before the meeting so no results could be posted. We'll keep you informed.

Maplewood State Park Walks

An opportunity to take an organized walk at Maplewood. We were contacted by a group called the AVA (American Volkssport Assn). They are an organized walking group and they have selected Maplewood State Park for their fall walks. They will take place on Saturday, September 22 and Sunday, September 23.

Everyone is invited to join them even though you are not a member of the group. Registration will be on Saturday, September 22 at Maplewood Lutheran Church between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. You can read on their website, www.nstt.org to find out about this organization.

Cost is \$2.00 for the walk only

Saturday from 8—10 at Maplewood Lutheran will be a pancake breakfast. Free will donation

Saturday will have 2 walks each of 7km and a shorter walk

Sunday will have 2 walks. One of 4km and one of 6km and a shorter walk

Saturday evening there is a Hobo Soup Supper at the Group Camp in Maplewood.

Free will offering.



PADDLE BOARD STORAGE

A BIG thank you to Ron Hegerle and his crew, Denny Albright & Joel Hegerle. Park manager says it is a great addition to the park and makes it easier to rent out the paddle boards as they can be stored right at the campground.



Thank you to Dale & Elizabeth Michealson and Ruth & Ben Johnson for their donation of this cast iron kettle to be used with our maple syrup demonstration. This kettle is from the Oscar & Igonette Fjestad farm in Trondhjem Township from the 1920's. The Friends of Maplewood appreciates the donation. Also note that our Assistant Park Manager, Jeff Fjestad, is a relative of those Fjestads.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE for 2019

Friends of Maplewood membership drive for 2019 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.

Another great year in 2018. We had a total of 313 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.

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

We really appreciate your membership because your dues money is our best fundraiser. Do you know of a neighbor who might enjoy supporting the Friends of Maplewood? We sure would appreciate you telling them about the Friends group. And of course if you have the time and energy, we can always use you to volunteer. As we increase our activity at Maplewood, we need more people who will step forward and help out. If you feel you can help, **this is how you contact us.**

nordlake7@hotmail.com 218-334-6567 Box 259, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

1. Help at Leaf Days. September 29-30 or October 6-7 Great time and it is so much fun to see everyone having a good time.
2. Maple Syrup Demonstration Day
3. Maple Syrup School groups
4. Maple Syrup set up tapping, boiling, cleaning
5. Candlelight Ski night help

VOL NTEER We need U



Friends of Maplewood
Box 259
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
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ANNUAL MEETING

FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 2018 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 2018 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 6th, at 6:30. You can pay your 2019 dues at that time. Thanks for taking the time to help improve Maplewood State Park.