

The Maple Leaf

Winter/Spring 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:

Feb. 24 – Candlelight Ski
April 7 – Maple Syrup Day
Sept 29-30—Leaf Days
Oct 6-7 - Leaf Days

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
Jerry Jacobson/D. Mae Ceryes
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.



2017 Deer Hunting at Maplewood State Park

Nearly 100 deer hunters participated in the 2017 special deer hunt at Maplewood. The 4-day deer hunt (November 4th -9th) was a good, safe, and wonderful experience for hunters. Unlike the unseasonably warm weather of 2016 season, the 2017 season greeted hunter with cooler seasonal temps and a little bit of snow cover. 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 53 deer were harvested during the 2017 Special Deer Hunt.

Friends of Maplewood WEBSITE

friendsofmaplewood.org

Maple Syrup Season 2018

Its cold outside as I write this. I mean really cold. I know the sap isn't moving because I'm not really moving either. But it will happen. We tapped our first tree on March 3rd last year. So before you know it we'll be collecting sap and cooking it into syrup. We always welcome people to come and help us, and learn about maple syrup. We want to share those fun times with everyone. Interested in helping or watching, call Maplewood, 218-863-8383, Bob Hanson, 218-758-2132, (you'll probably get his secretary, Kathy) or email nordlake7@hotmail.com.

DEMONSTRATION DAY

April 7, Saturday

10:00—3:00 Maplewood State Park

Come one, come all to Maplewood State Park and experience Maple Syrup, the history, the production, and the tasting. Lots to do.

1. Learn how to tap a tree
2. Learn how to identify maple trees
3. See how the new evaporator works
4. Learn the process from tree to table.
5. Taste ice cream topped with maple syrup
6. Find out how settlers and Native Americans cooked sap.
7. Horse drawn wagon rides
8. Hike the mile loop around Cataract Lake
9. Use GPS to find the hidden Maple leaves
10. Brats & hot dogs will be available for sale

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

SCHOOL EDUCATION—MAPLE SYRUP

We need people who are available during the day to help with school groups who come to Maplewood. Flexible times and dates. Training will take place sometime during March 6—9. Volunteer and we'll be in touch. School groups will be visiting some time between March 12—April 7.

VERGAS MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

The annual celebration of maple syrup in Vergas will be held on April 7th. The day begins with a pancake breakfast from 8:00-Noon. Other events include a 5K Maple Syrup Run which starts at 9:00 (registration is at 8:00). View other offerings at www.cityofvergas.com.

SCHOOL MAPLE SYRUP CURRICULUM

On November 30th, Don DeIGreco, Jeff Fjestad, D.Mae Ceryes, Bob Hanson, Ruth & Van Holmgren, John Nordstrom, and Stu Peterson met to map out a curriculum to use when school groups come to Maplewood to learn about making maple syrup. It will allow students to visit 5 different stations.

- 1— Maple tree identification and information
- 2— Tapping a tree and collecting sap
- 3— Native American & Pioneer methods
- 4— Sugar Shack & evaporation of sap
- 5— Tasting sap and syrup

We think it is a good program, but as you can see we will need volunteers to help each time a school group comes. I've heard from some of you who have indicated that you can help. **We need more volunteers.** [call 218-841-7673 or email nordlake7@hotmail.com] All volunteers will need to attend a training session in early March. If you volunteer we'll contact you when it will be held. It is not necessary to know how to make maple syrup.

At the present time we are visiting all the area schools to see how much interest there is to visit Maplewood. We hope to expand our educational maple syrup program at Maplewood.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Summer Art at Maplewood

There will be a summer art activity during each month this summer. The ACTIVITIES will be taught by Viking Elementary Art Teacher, Heidi Smith. The classes are usually held at the Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter and last about 2 hours. As of this newsletter we do not know the dates or types of activities. Notification of the events will come by email, Friends of Maplewood website, facebook and The Pelican Press. Please watch for them.

RUNNING WILD RUNNING WILD

TRAIL RUN

7th Annual



Where: Maplewood State Park

When: Saturday, June 9, 2018 9:00

Why: Benefiting Health Resources Center
of Fergus Falls

3 Events to choose from:

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

Information: www.runningwildtrailrun.com

MUSIC AT MAPLEWOOD

Last summer was our first full summer of three different music events. It was very successful and we hope to achieve it again. As of this newsletter the entertainers, dates and times have not been scheduled. As with the Summer Art, the events will be posted on the Friends of Maplewood website, facebook, The Pelican Press, and sent by email.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Hardy Minnesotans get out in the winter. Maplewood has cross country ski trails.



There is enough snow to ski, and the groomer has been out. Snowshoes are available for \$6.00 a day rental. And for that unique Minnesota experience, Maplewood has 3 cabins available to rent. \$70.00 a night and available Thursday—Sunday nights. And don't forget the candlelight ski on February 24th.



FRIENDS OF MAPLEWOOD

TO DO LIST

PADDLE BOARD STORAGE

Friends of Maplewood has volunteered to build a storage cabinet for the paddleboards and paint it. Rental of paddleboards has become very popular and it would be beneficial to the park to have them stored at the campground. Ron Hegerle has volunteered to take charge of this project. Project will be built on site and probably in late April or early May. We do need about 3 other volunteers to help with the building. You can volunteer by calling 218-841-7673 or email to nordlake7@hotmail.com.



Epoxy Floor Painting

Kitchen and Bathroom Josh Hanson Memorial Picnic Shelter

We have permission, we have the money, now we just need a volunteer to step forward to take charge. We'll find some volunteers to help we would just like somebody with some experience to head the group. There are no time limitations as to a completion date. The product we would use is Rust-Oleum Epoxy-Shield with no slip option. We would be doing just the floors in the bathroom and kitchen prep area at the Picnic Shelter. To volunteer call 218-841-7673 email nordlake7@hotmail.com.



PICNIC SHELTER LANDSCAPING

We have a plan to help the Native Plantings around the picnic shelter. We have a committee, Jim & Fran Bassett, Scott & Stephanie Stenshoel, Wayne Runningen, Brian Laymon, and Bob Hanson. Wayne Runningen has agreed to be the chairperson and contact person. Other volunteers welcomed.

- 1- Remove all vegetation from the first 12-18 inches next to the building, put in an edging strip, cover with plastic and rock. This will keep the logs cleaner.
- 2- removal as needed of some of the overgrown native plants that have over-run the planting beds around the building.
- 3- add some additional plants to the area as suggested by Don, Jeff, Cindy Lueth, and Brad Walvatne.
- 4- place bark around the small trees in the area to protect their trunks.
- 5- trim grass around the trees and cut off dead lower hanging branches.

LEAF DAYS 2017

It wasn't a great year. The first weekend (500 cars) we had chilly, wet, weather, but the leaves were nice. Most of our activities took place under the picnic shelter. The second weekend brought forth a great Saturday (1037 cars) but the wind and rain on Sunday morning forced us to cancel. So we didn't make a lot of money (\$1962), but most importantly the people who visited Maplewood State Park had a good time with the activities we provided for them. Every year the word spreads and more people come to Maplewood to celebrate Leaf Days. It takes a good group of volunteers to put it all together.

A new activity this year was learning how to make butter using an old fashioned butter churn. Thanks to Cliff and Phyllis Knutson for their expertise and butter churns. Lots of interest. Good butter on crackers.



LEAF DAY THANK YOU'S

Cliff & Phyllis Knutson for donating the rope making machine

David & Kim Gottenborg Apples for Leaf Days from the Gottenborg Apple Orchard in Audubon

Home Depot Fergus Falls and St. Cloud - donation of woodworking kits used at Leaf Days

Sanford & Carol Emery—for arranging and picking up the woodworking kits from Home Depot.

Loren Abel and Jeff Grunewald donation of gasoline and their pick ups to pull the wagon rides during Leaf Days

Bob Hanson—for pulling the wagon back to Underwood Lions after Leaf Days.

Kay Albright—for providing and cutting out all the material for our pioneer dolls.

Scott & Stephanie Stenshoel—for donating the twine for our rope making during Leaf Days.

Deb Hauge—for donating the cheese cloth used in making apple juice.

THINGS TO SAVE For pick up call John Nordstrom 218-841-7673 or drop off at Maplewood State Park

Buttons little bigger than nickel and up with holes

Feathers 4 inches or longer

Maple Leaves - cloth

Cloth - light weight 15 in X 15 in for pioneer dolls

Cotton Balls

Jugs – Apple Cider clear gallon size cleaned

Nature stuff bones, skulls, turtle shells, fossils, rocks, For kids to explore

Pine Cones medium size used for a bird feeder

Caps from milk jugs or larger used for bird feeders

Twine bales - that we can use for making rope

Corn on cob dried for shelling

Acorns used for art projects

Barn wood old boards 1 inch thick 4 to 8 inches wide

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



Friends of Maplewood has had a Little Free Library at the main campground since July of 2014. It continues to be successful with books of different genre for both children and adults. Books are borrowed, read, returned or kept by campers. Campers also leave books for others to enjoy. **Ruth & Van Holmgren** check the library on a regular bases to add or change books. At least 50 books are kept in the library at any given time. Over 2000 books have circulated through the Little Free Library. It is always fun to have camping children help fill the library, tell the books they like to read, and books that should be put in the library. Adults tell how they enjoy the books for themselves and for their children. The Journal kept in the Little Library is enjoyable to read. Some examples of entries are: 10 year old Lenea wrote: I gave a book called Truth is a Bright Star a Hopi Adventure. I will always come back.; The reason we keep coming back to the library is you have good books and we love them.; You guys have the best library.; great idea; thank you. Friends would like to thank those who have contributed books for the Little Free Library and will continue to accept quality books.

THE RANGER REPORT



PARK MANAGER
Don Del Greco

HEADLINE STORIES 2017

The early spring warm-up and picture-perfect summer weather has set the stage for a very memorable outdoor recreation summer for thousands of visitors to Maplewood. The spectacular 2017 fall color season lingered well into October offering colorful memories to thousands of leaf-lookers and wrapped up another season of wonder-filled days for the special guests that visit Maplewood each season. As we savor the joy and beauty of spring, summer, fall and await the wonder of winter, please join us in reflecting on the updated highlights and stories of 2017 as noted below.

-Maplewood Attendance record 2017: Over 154,000 visitors enjoyed the wonder of Maplewood in 2017. This is a new record as the visitation numbers continued to swell ahead of last year's record attendance of 144,477. A notable story for the 2017 is the consistent "picture-perfect" weather conditions, especially on weekends, and the early spring warm-up. Overall camping is above record levels with horse riding & horse camping at above record levels in 2017.

-"You – are – Here" Trail Map Signs: This project continues to provide park guests with enhanced guidance and orientation on Maplewood's diverse and extensive trail system. The project included the installation of 63 newly designed "You-are-Here" Trail Signs at various locations throughout Maplewood's trail system and was installed by park staff and the Conservation Corps of MN (CCM).

Record Attendance: New Sugar Shack/Maple Syrup Demonstration Day, April 8, 2017: The 2017 Maple syrup programming season concluded with blue skies and a beautiful 70 degree day. The Friends of Maplewood (25 volunteers) hosted over 1,500 people of all ages that were in attendance for a successful day of introducing guests to the wonder of maple-syrupping.

-New Vehicle Permit Fees: Beginning on July 1, 2017, Minnesota State Park vehicle permit fees:
Annual Permits: \$35.00, Additional permit: \$26.00, Special Permit: \$12.00, Daily Permit: \$7.00.

-Prairie restoration resource work continues with several prescribed burns & ongoing invasive species removal: Favorable weather made for excellent prescribed burn conditions in several locations at Maplewood this spring and early summer with efforts focused in the Beers Lake restoration units.

-School Events: Maplewood hosted numerous local schools' "Year-End" and "Year-Beginning" Events. (Pelican Rapids, Perham, Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Underwood, Frazee/Vergas and others)

New Horse Campground Trail Informational Kiosk: New Interpretive panels were installed in September of 2017 to specifically provide trail route riding information, horse riding & horse camping guidelines and etiquette for all park users. The kiosk project has been well received by park horse riding guests was funded through the Minnesota State Horse Pass revenues.

Special/Improvement Projects:

- Sugar Shack Parking lot & landscaping Project completed in 2017.
- Campground Blacktop Road Patching Project: Removal and re-paving of large frost boils
- Electrical Lighting/Energy efficiency projects: LED light conversion and motion sensor installations.
- Gravel Road Projects: Park roads received a large boost for ongoing road surface improvement projects.
- Plumbing repair/upgrade: Fixtures at Beach, Main Campground Sanitation buildings, RV Dump station.
- Boat rental dock improvements: Installation of new dock platforms at Beers Lake watercraft rental site.

Upcoming 2018 projects: Horse Camp and Day Use Area Vault toilet & ongoing Hallaway Hill Re-alignment Project

2017 - Celebrating the Seasons, Friends of Maplewood Sugar Shack Dedication and Record Attendance

The celebration of the seasons at Maplewood unfolds each year providing wonder-filled experiences for many new and returning park guests. Park guests seek opportunity to immerse themselves in the lush greens and warmth of summer days, or the color-filled days of autumn. Winter solitude draws hearty adventurers and the spring woodlands now echo with the laughter of children experiencing the joy of maple sugaring. Each year we are privileged to be lavished in the gifts of Nature and we have had much to celebrate in 2017.

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.

On September 14, 2017 we celebrated the partnership between the Friends of Maplewood and the DNR Parks and Trails Division with a Grand Opening event. The event honored this treasured partnership and gave recognition to the many volunteers and generous donors that helped fund the new Sugar Shack facility.

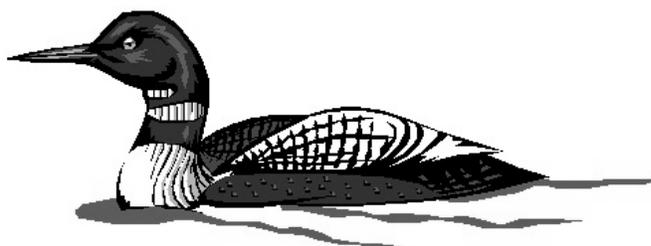
Thanks to the hard work and support from the friends of Maplewood, we now have an incredible indoor facility to conduct our interpretive maple syrup making programs. Through this partnership, the interpretive stories of maple sugaring will be enhanced and provide future generations with the opportunity to learn about this unique connection to nature.

2017 has been blessed with some of the finest overall weather conditions for outdoor recreation in recent years. Maplewood's beautiful forests, colorful prairies and sparkling lakes hosted a new record number of over 154,000 guests. We are gratified to see the increased numbers of new and returning park guests enjoying the wonder and beauty of Minnesota's natural treasures in 2017.

We are thankful to the Friends of Maplewood for your ongoing partnership with Minnesota State Parks and Trails in our working together to help preserve some of the most beautiful places in Minnesota by helping provide places where you can bond with your family and friends and build memories that last a lifetime.

We cordially invite all Friends of Maplewood members to join in the various festivities, projects and special programs of the upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Don Del Greco, Park Manager/Maplewood State Park



**Friends of Maplewood is on
FACEBOOK**

Go ahead and like us and find out what is going on and see some great pictures.

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

Neil Toso
Lyle Tweten
Kirk Olson
Ilo Hendrickson
Frank Del Greco

GIVEN BY

Mary & Bob Bowers
Wayne & Melanie Runningen
Mary & Bob Bowers
John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Don Busek
DNR Regional Office 1
Nancy & Gary Emery
Ed & Sharon Fjestad
Gary Forsberg
Ruth & Van Holmgren
Keith & Karen Homan
Merlin & Barb Kjono
Cliff & Phyllis Knutson
Dick & Diane MacGregor
Maplewood Park Staff
John & Bonnie Nordstrom
Wayne & Melanie Runningen
Faye Siegle

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.

Brian & Denise Laymon

Thrivent Financial

Thank you to Thrivent for donating \$250 to buy supplies for our Maple Syrup Dedication Day.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have 49 Lifetime members.
Announcing our newest
Perham Rotary Club
Jeanne & Jim Hovland
Kathryn Evenson/Bernd Nordmann

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$41,801.39 in our checking account
\$1,747.03 Parks & Trails account

DONATIONS

Ruth & Van Holmgren \$ In honor of
Robin & Karla Johnsons' Retirement
Ruth & Van Holmgren \$ In honor of
Phil & Cyndy Stotesbery for 40 years at Larrys

Gary & Phyllis Jorgenson \$

Gabrielle Atwood \$

Sanford Emery for making our Maple Syrup plaque
Terry Heller for making Sugar Shack sign in pedestal

Cliff & Phyllis Knutson for donating a bird house to sell

Lion's Club of Vergas MN \$200

Perham Rotary Club \$1000

Underwood Area Lions \$200

ITEMS NEEDED [purchase or donate]

Wooden pails (old) or do you know a craftsman who could make

Pulleys - old wooden double and single [block&tackle]

Cast Iron Kettle—to demo cooking sap on a fire

Candy grade thermometer—one you don't use anymore

Electric fry pan- will be used to cook sap into candy

Birch bark containers—used for demonstration purposes

Birch bark—know anyone who makes things out of birch bark

SUGAR SHACK DONATIONS

The DEDICATION of our Sugar Shack took place on September 14th. In our fall newsletter we listed our Sweet Donors, Contactors, and Suppliers. Today we are thanking all the other individuals and groups who donated money to make our Sugar Shack a reality. As we await the new maple syrup season and the possibilities created by the sugar shack we are reminded of the many who put forth money and effort to get the job done. The Friends of Maplewood and Maplewood State Park gives all of you a very big thank you.

Erik & Twila Aslesen
Duane & Cleo Bohne
Ron & Carol Buckholz Chihos
Georgia & Mel Duncan
Ed & Sharon Fjestad
Linda C. Haibara
Lyle Haugrud
John Hess
Ruth & Van Holmgren

Scott Kvidt
Lori & Keith Lien
John McMillen
Dave McRoberts
Alma Ronningen
Esther Sleen
Dale & Kari Steenblock
Bill & Monica Stutsman
Ken & Joan Voigt
Carol Zielinski

Memory of Helen Knopf
Memory of Bob Babler
Memory of Vernon & Velda Buckholz
Honor Terry Heller, Memory Ellie Heller
Honor of Harper Fjestad
Honor of Ernest R. Poore 100 years old
Memory of Phyllis Haugrud
Memory of Harry Hess & Nancy Hess
Memory of Marvin Ronningen
Memory of Paul & Robert Johnson
Memory of Jane A. & Ed Hanyzewski
Memory of Eldred Kvidt
Memory of Carlton & Olga Berg
Memory of Joan McMillen
Memory of James Gibbs McRoberts
Memory of Marvin Ronningen
Memory of Ardean Sleen
Honor of Our Grandchildren
Memory of Bill Stutsman, Jr.
Memory of T.W. Voigt
Memory of Dave Zielinski

Tom & Sally Allen
Norm & Sue Anderson
Jim & Fran Bassett
George Bassingthwaite
John & Kathy Borge
Walt & Glenda Bro
Deb Carpenter
D. Mae Ceryes
Robert Conn
Terry Lee Cornell II
Bonnie & Don DelGreco
Carol & Sanford Emery
Marilyn Folden
Solveig Halbakken
Lauren Hendrickson
Lyle Hendrickson
Lonny & Lisa Hovland
Jerry Jacobson
Merl Johannes
Wayne & Dena Johnson
Roland Jordahl
Catherine & Thomas Kane
Detroit Lakes Kiwanis Club
Cliff & Phyllis Knutson
Gene & Gwen Koski
Dorene Kvam
Maynard & JoAnn Laymon
Elton & Gabi Lezon
Judy Mach
LaVerne & Roger Moltzen
Stephen Nagle
Lloyd P. & Donna Nelson
Dick & Gloria Nord
Jan & David Rolfson
Gregory & Tammy Smith
Gene & Marion Stoll
Galen & Sharon Vaa
Vergas State Bank
Phletus & Sally Williams





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 24th

6:00-8:30



It has been a frustrating last 2 years. 2016 we could just hike and last year we had to cancel because of no snow and too much water. What is with Minnesota? But this year things might be different so 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.

