



Friends of Lapham Peak Newsletter Vol. 26, No. 2, April 2018, by Rita Keber
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SPRING WORK DAY

Our annual spring Work Day will be on Saturday, **May 12th** from 9:00 am to noon. Meet at the DNR Maintenance Shop which is the first left turn after you enter the park. The theme is Work*Play*Earth Day. Work in the morning and enjoy the park in the afternoon. Several projects are planned from buckthorn and garlic mustard removal, Butterfly Garden clean up and adding new bricks to the pathway, to woodchips on trails. Have appropriate work clothes including sturdy footwear and gloves. Some tools will be provided, however you may bring a loppers and/or shovel. Lunch will follow at noon with pulled pork sandwiches and salads. Please contact [Rita](#) or call 262-547-4827 **if you are staying for lunch by Wednesday, May 11th.**

PRE-COLORAMA 2018 MEETING

Anyone interested in preparing for the 30th Colorama Run/Walk, please meet for a short meeting at 4:45 at the Nature Center on May 2nd.

BIKE SWAP & FUN FAIR

The 13th Annual Bike Swap & Fun Fair is on **Saturday, June 2** from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. The **new** location will be at the Lapham Peak **Homestead Hollow** area. **It's free admission into the park this day!** There will be the usual bike corral (bring your bikes to sell) and vendors. New are children's games and food sales. See the [Bike Swap Website](#)

for more information. Help is needed so [volunteer!](#)


Free Fun Weekend in Wisconsin

No state park admission stickers or trail passes are required **June 2-3**. Bike the Glacial Drumlin Trail. It is also Free Fishing Weekend for people to fish without fishing licenses or state trout stamps. Picnic and grill out using one of the grills around the park.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

Thank you for your 2018 membership renewal! There are 162 Friends members. 2017 volunteer hours logged were **7,049.5** for park projects which include Wednesday Night Ski Series, Lapham Loppet, Candlelight Ski, Work Days, Summer Solstice, Colorama, Fright Hike, Butterfly Garden clean up, invasive species removal and burning, cleaning up the park, bluebird monitoring and assisting at Hausmann Nature Center. We couldn't have done it without you! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

BIRD HIKES

Birds are back! Join fellow birders at 7:00 am for two hours on Sundays **May 6, 13, 20, and 27**. Meet at Evergreen parking lot. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars and a bird book if you have one. 

HAUSMANN NATURE CENTER

The HNC will open **September and October** on Saturday and Sunday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. It will be closed in June, July and August due to low attendance. **Two volunteers per day are needed to keep the Center open.** Contact Louise at 262-646-8583 or lborzynski10@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

HNC has new rates to rent the facility. Contact 414-647-6050 for more information.

SNOWMAKING

We would have only skied **nine** days on the trail system this winter without the snowmaking loop. The loop provided **78 days!** The snowmaking volunteers and the DNR started making snow on December 7th and opened the loop on the 16th, added more December 26-29, and again in January due to heavy rain and warm weather.

In 2017, the FLP Snowmaking Committee purchased two new larger Pole Cat snow guns (\$42k), completed a major overhaul of the snow cat (\$20k) and repaired the well pump (\$6k). These improvements helped make **60% more snow this season** while reducing the time to make, spread, and groom the snow. These improvements allowed the trail to handle a higher volume of skiers without significant congestion, especially on weekends when there were no other skiable trails in SE Wisconsin!

This was the second year that volunteers worked closely with DNR to make and spread the manmade snow. This effort was led by Joe Stuber, who spent over 350 hours making snow, and coordinated 16 volunteer snowmakers. The snow cat, used to spread the snow and till the surface after several rain/thaw/freeze events, was operated by two volunteers providing over 145 hours of work!

All seven of the Wednesday night races were able to be skied as a result of their hard work. The Peak Nordic Kids and Peak Nordic Ski Club were also able to have consistent snow for their programs; while the middle school and high school teams were able to get the on-snow training time needed to successfully compete in the State-wide Ski League. Several weekends required overflow parking for skiers. **Thank you, dedicated volunteers, for providing consistent skiing to thousands of people this winter!**

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, June 23rd** from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm to celebrate summer. Join us at the Mike Fort Picnic Shelter by Homestead Hollow area (follow the accessible trail) for music and food. Bring a chair if you wish or sit at picnic tables. Beverages and food available for purchase. Proceeds from the event will benefit snowmaking and other park projects. Volunteers will be needed. More information will follow at a later date.